

Social contract under growing strain as more unions attack

Joseph Gormley, the miners' and Vauxhall shop stewards' voices yesterday to the Labour Party for an end to wage restraint when the pay policy in July. Increasing signs of a growing social contract

Mr Gormley fears pit defections

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Prime Minister asks unions to be patient

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South African bishops speak out against systematic beatings and police torture

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The four IRA terrorists sentenced yesterday (left to right) Harry Duggan, Hugh Doherty, Martin Joseph O'Connell, and Edward Butler.

Two police chiefs give a warning of early IRA reprisals

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Syrians and guerrillas join battle in Beirut

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Jenkins pledge on Europe

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Inquiry into beer prices

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Air trespassing claim rejected

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Procedural wrangling delays devolution Bill

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ME NEWS

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By Gibb, of
Higher Education
The income for 1977-78 is to be cut by as much as 10 per cent, as had been pre-announced in the University Grants Committee report in September. Mrs Secretary of State for Education and Science, has told the House of Commons.

A Mrs Williams did not say a figure, it is understood the reduction is between 1 per cent and 10 per cent compared with 1976-77, assuming an average of 5 per cent.

It is estimated that the total income of the 1976-77, assuming an average of 5 per cent, would be between £603m and £605m.

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NUT leader denounces
teaching ginger group

By Mark Vaughan, of
The Times Educational Supplement
Rank and File, the militant teachers' group, was attacked last night by Mr Frederick Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers.

Speaking at Ulverston, Cumbria, Mr Jarvis condemned Rank and File as a "self-appointed politically inspired group which holds the rules and policies of the union in complete contempt."

He said the group, which was promoted unofficially, was breaking the rules of the union and challenging the basis for action laid down by the executive and approved by an overwhelming majority at the annual conference.

"This very small minority is in effect telling the majority of the members of the union that they wish to impose their own view on the rest of the union and to take action as they please and not in conformity with the policies decided by the majority," Mr Jarvis said.

He denied that the NUT was in any way involved in the school meal duties, the interim pay award and the London allowance.

"That is a perversion of the truth, for in each case the action taken by the membership was official and it was approved and led by the executive of the day."

The NUT has about 290,000 members and Rank and File's 1,500 members are in about 100 schools in Hereford and Worcester next Thursday in protest against planned reductions of about £6m in the county council's education budget.

School strike
planned
against cuts

Members of the National Union of Teachers are threatening to withdraw their services from schools in Hereford and Worcester next Thursday in protest against planned reductions of about £6m in the county council's education budget.

They are being asked to attend a demonstration at Hereford, where the council will consider its budget.

The NUT stated that the authority's education committee had already agreed to cuts of more than £4m, involving the loss of 180 teaching posts. If the council agreed to a 63p rate further cuts of more than £2m in education would be needed. That would probably mean the loss of 450 more jobs.

St Anne's
College,
Oxford, may
admit men

From Our Correspondent
Oxford
St Anne's College is likely to become the first of the five women's colleges at Oxford to admit men as members. It already has a man for treasurer, Mr Bernard Halse, who is a member of the college governing body.

The college is seeking to amend its statutes to allow men as well as women to become fellows; if approved, that would open the way for a man to become principal.

The present principal, Mrs Nancy Trenman, says the college is not thinking of opening its student membership to men as well as women. The present move is intended to remove doubts about the employment of men as well as women as fellows.

The college has, in addition to the principal, 23 women fellows, 350 undergraduates and 150 graduates.

St Peter's College also wants to amend its statutes so as to admit women to fellowships. Similarly, the move is not intended as a first step towards the general admission of women.

Professor Max Beloff explains why he has left the Association of University Teachers: David Walker reports on the growing demand for a British Brookings, and Jane Monahan writes on higher education in Argentina, all in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today.

Not even a nod between British and Irish delegations
Acrimony at Strasbourg over
allegations of torture

From Christopher Walker
Strasbourg
To most ordinary citizens in Belfast, Dublin and London the legal wrangling over torture allegations which ended in the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg on Wednesday, after final submissions had been made, may have seemed irrelevant to the continuing violence in Northern Ireland. But there is no question about the damage it has inflicted on Britain's international reputation long before the verdict.

As the detailed arguments were presented by the opposing attorneys-general, the members of the large press corps who showed the keenest interest were Mr Eugene Babenko and Vladimir O. Ouchimikov, representing respectively Tass and Pravda. Every night they filed lengthy accounts to Moscow about the murky events in Strasbourg.

More than five years ago, Soviet television was at the hearing and Council of Europe officials were in no doubt that anti-British propaganda was being gathered in advance of the East-West conference scheduled for Belgrade later this year.

The proceedings of the court were not designed to provide courtroom drama, even when the subject was as emotive as torture. The 18 judges, including two women, sat in a wide semi-circle, and listened to speeches without interrupting.

They will meet in private session before delivering an interim verdict which will rule how the next session in April is due to proceed.

Dwarfed by the newly opened Maison de l'Europe, the court is an anonymous marble-walled room that looks more like a conference centre. The judges wear black robes but no wigs, and there is little of the gravitas of a British court, with cameramen permitted to wander around and a telephone ringing frequently in the corner.

Evidence in the case was given in English by the two delegations, consisting in all of 23 Irish and British lawyers and officials. It is a mark of the acrimony that it has aroused that although some have been involved with it since 1971 they never talked or even nodded to one another in or outside the courtroom. By mutual agreement, the two delegations stayed in hotels in different parts of the city.

Mr Silkin, judged by legal observers to have been in better form than during the recent Post Office case in the High Court, wore headphones throughout the hearing. He said they were an aid to concentration, and that he was listening to the English language version of the Irish case rather than the instant French translation.

Mr Silkin was replying to Mr Declan Costello, Irish Attorney General, who rejected the

Councils aim
to take
over health
service

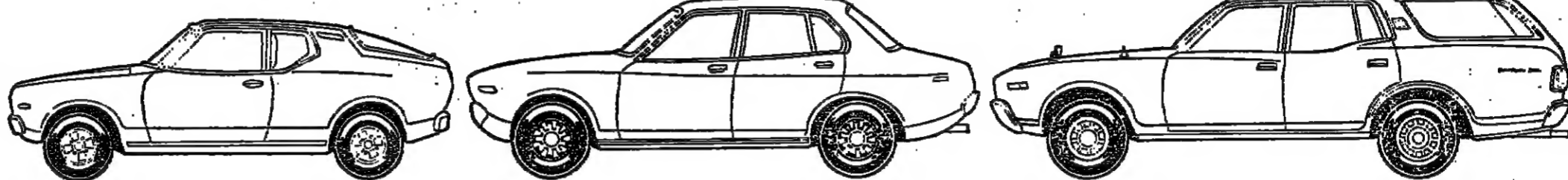
By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent
The only ultimately satisfactory method of organizing effective health and personal social services is to transfer the National Health Service to local government.

That is the main suggestion made by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, representing local authorities in the most densely populated areas of England and Wales, in evidence to the Royal Commission on the NHS, published yesterday.

It points out that until 1974 (NHS reorganization) local authorities were responsible for community-based health services, and 30 years ago many authorities ran hospital services.

NHS and local authorities were now closely involved not only in care in the community but in education, environmental health and housing. But present arrangements for working together were inadequate. Too few local authority members were appointed to area and regional health authorities, and those who were found their powers and responsibilities unclear and restricted.

Joint consultative committees, established to link services, had no teeth. Increasing demands were being made on local community-based services without resources and there was almost permanent conflict between health and personal social services staff on difficulties such as admissions and discharges to and from hospital of the elderly, the mentally ill and the disabled.



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* Mrs. Joy Gordon, Ramsgate, Kent: "My Datsun Sunny Coupé has now done 181,000 miles. I travel 200 miles daily and have had no mechanical failures other than a replacement alternator. Reliability is the key factor and in the Datsun I have found it."
* Mr. D. L. Epps, Near Tonbridge, Kent: "I own a 1972 Datsun Bluebird 160B which I have now driven for over 98,000 miles. When I bought this car, I gambled that it might turn out to be reliable and economical. On both counts it has exceeded all expectations... I cannot praise this car enough!"

DRIVING SCHOOLS
* Mr. W. Luck, Luck School of Motoring, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire: "My 1973 Datsun Sunny has covered 218,275 miles and is still running well on the same engine. It has not had an easy life, being a driving instructor's car for four years. Thank you for a car which has given such a wonderful service, a car which cannot be beaten."
* Mr. G. Davies, Snowdon School of Motoring, Caernarfon: "My Sunny 4-door saloon has done 158,000 miles and has never let me down. The first replacement was a new clutch plate at 147,000 miles. I go out in the morning and I know I am going to do a full day's work."

FLEET USERS
* Mr. Bob Davis, Air Call Communications Ltd., Dunstable, Beds: "We have over 80 Datsuns in the U.K. equipped with radio telephones in use 24 hours a day doing very high mileage sometimes on emergency medical calls. We have kept other cars and come back to Datsun because we must have the reliability and low running costs."
* The Gilpin Group, Leeds (Hotellers and Caterers): "We have been using Datsuns for four years and have a fleet of 15, mainly estate cars, and they are thoroughly reliable and trouble-free. Our cars do a high mileage and we are well satisfied with Datsun."

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referring fewer
to the Ombudsman

Mr. Ombudsman made 329 referrals on the results of investigations during the last year, a fall from 400 in the previous year. The annual report for 1976, published by the Commissioner for the Environment, said the number of referrals had fallen by 25 per cent, from 400 in 1975 to 329 in 1976. The report also said that the number of referrals had fallen by 25 per cent, from 400 in 1975 to 329 in 1976. The report also said that the number of referrals had fallen by 25 per cent, from 400 in 1975 to 329 in 1976.

against
who
romises

Reporters
Prosecutions against the public accusatory would not return had allegedly done to court the Gordon or General of Fair in Manchester.

Customers 'in
danger of
food poisoning'

From Our Correspondent
York
Customers at a restaurant specializing in old-fashioned banquets were in danger of food poisoning because of an appalling lack of cleanliness, magistrates at Selby, North Yorkshire, were told yesterday.

Fines and costs totalling £1,600 were imposed on the Tower Entertainment Group, of Leeds, which admitted 17 offences under the food hygiene regulations at its Forge Inn restaurant, near York.

Mr John Harbottle, for the prosecution, said the health officials discovered mouse droppings, grease, old food, cobwebs and foul-smelling refrigerators. They were horrified and considered closing the restaurant down immediately. They were told that the company had relied on kitchen staff to do the cleaning.

Mr Michael Shepherd, for the defence, said the officers' visit resulted in an immediate board meeting, at which the chef tendered his resignation. The company had only recently acquired the Forge Inn and realized that the kitchen facilities were inadequate. It had already spent £2,000 cleaning up the kitchens which now "shone like a new pin" and planned to spend £20,000 more on improvements.

ST EUROPE



King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia of Spain in the Vatican yesterday as King Juan Carlos looks on.

ne praise King n Carlos

for Nichols Juan Carlos told the

that Spaniards "pas-

sionately love liberty", family ties and the historic traditions of their religion.

The visit to Italy of the King and Queen Sophia is taking place in an atmosphere of remarkable cordiality. The left-wing Rome newspaper La Repubblica comments today that the Spanish King "is winning the respect of Europe" and that as little as six or seven months ago this visit to Italy

would have seemed out of the question. "In seven months the scene has so changed that not only the Vatican but the Quirinal Palace has been opened to the King without fear of accusations from the democratic forces of receiving a usurper of a sovereignty which has still not been finally restored to the people", it declared. The King and the Pope were

together for more than an hour. There is no doubt that they talked about the political changes in Spain and the recent agreement on modifications in formal relations between the Holy See and Madrid. This was the first visit of a Spanish head of state to Italy and the Vatican for 54 years. After the papal audience, the King and Queen saw Cardinal Villot, the Secretary of State.

Soares satisfied with entry ks terms set by Community

hard Wigg

to Soares, the Portu-

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he was satisfied with

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said in an interview

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Soares replied: "I

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the Greeks originally

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ing the time they

Dr Vitor Constancio, the

chairman of the experts' team

dealing with Portugal's approach

to the EEC, who will accom-

pany Dr Soares on his tour,

said he envisaged the negotia-

tions going on until 1980 or

1981.

The Prime Minister indicated

that in the event of a Portu-

guese application for mem-

bership being lodged after his

tour, he expected all this year to be

taken up with preliminary in-

quiries and studies by both the

Community and Portugal.

The transitional period until

Portugal would be "in a con-

dition to assume the obligations

stemming from the Treaty of

Rome", might be "10 years or

more".

Dr Soares struck a relatively

optimistic note about the

stability of Portugal's new

democratic institutions. "If

Europe does not shut the door

in our face, if on the contrary

we were rejected, then that

could have very grave conse-

quences".

He was willing to give assu-

rances in the capitals of the Nine

on future investment guaran-

tees and compensation for

nationalization, but not for

those nationalizations declared

irrevocable under the Portu-

guese constitution.

There was no conflict be-

tween the broad principles of

economic policy in Portugal

and those in the EEC coun-

tries.

Explaining his Government's

basic philosophy behind apply-

ing, Dr Soares said: "The

Common Market offers us a big

endeavour, obliging us to

change structures and to catch

up on the backwardness we

suffer from as regards the rest

of Europe.

"We do not think of resol-

ving our problems simply by

joining. We shall have to solve

them with our own efforts. But

Portugal has no other valid

project but to transform itself

into a member of the EEC with

all the dignity that can represent—

unless we are willing to be a

kind of Puerto Rico or Cuba

of Europe".

Asked about the reluctance

of the Benelux countries to a

widening of the EEC, Dr

Soares argued their fears were

not justified.

"I am a pragmatist but I am

also a partisan of a true

Europe and not an association

of states only based on

economic progress or economic

worries.

"I am for a political Europe

with real supranational insti-

tutions. I reckon the entry of

countries from southern Europe

would represent an enormous

contribution to such a Europe."

Dr Soares said he under-

stood Ireland, reported to be

reluctant about admitting Por-

tugal because there might be

less to share out from the

regional, social and guidance

funds, wished to defend ad-

vantages for its own people.

"But in a community of free

nations there must be a cer-

tain solidarity which should

come before strictly national

and egoistic criteria", he said.

Nine under Arab pressure in Tunis

Tunis, Feb 10. — Arab

pressure mounted in Tunis

today on the EEC to adopt more

positive positions on the Arab-

Israeli dispute.

Mr Ismael Khellil, the

Tunisian delegate, warned the

EEC that there could be no

progress towards greater

economic cooperation between

Europe and the Arabs if there

was no progress on political

questions.

He was opening a three-day

session of the general commit-

tee of the Euro-Arab dialogue

between 20 Arab countries and

the Nine.

Mr Khellil's speech was

devoted mainly to the Middle

East dispute criticizing "the

obstinacy of Israel in continuing

its occupation of Arab ter-

ritories". Some powers en-

couraged this occupation while

others kept silent about it, he

said.

He expressed disappointment

over the EEC's agreements with

Israel which were concluded on

Tuesday, and were helping

Israel's development.

The EEC had not under-

taken any action to carry out

two of the principles accepted

during a session of the dialogue

in Luxembourg last May, he

said. These were that it was

inadmissible to acquire ter-

ritory by force and the need for

the evacuation of occupied

territories.

Mr Khellil suggested that

there should be Euro-Arab con-

sultations at the United

Nations.

Replying for the EEC, Mr

Richard Faber, of Britain, em-

phasized the economic impor-

tance the Community attached

to the Euro-Arab dialogue and

expressed satisfaction over the

improvement in prospects for

peace in the Middle East.

He recalled that the EEC

accepted the right of Middle

East countries to live within

safe frontiers and recognized

the legitimate rights of the Pal-

estinians, including that to ex-

press effectively their national

identity.

Referring to the EEC agree-

ments with Israel, Mr Faber

emphasized that the Community

wished to be the sole judge of

its relations with Israel.

The committee then turned to

questions concerning technical

cooperation between Europe

and the Arab world.—Agence

France-Presse.

Jenkins pledge not to head 'ine' Commission

d Cross

Feb 10

more confident

is since he took up

ment, as president

European Commission

beginning of the year,

kins said today that

his colleagues would

aid in using their

influence in the Euro-

pean Community.

not come here to

or a supine Commis-

sion members of the

Parliament in Luxem-

burg.

policy suggestions the

Commission would

carefully prepared

which had "sufficient

ess and relevance"

at they could not be

ved or rejected by

verments.

has was replying to

ry some MPs of his

of the Community

ich he delivered to

ment earlier this

evening.

A seven-hour debate

by on Mr Jenkins's

many members, with

a exception of his

allies, seemed to

the president had

ing on analysis but

specific remedies to

Community a new

sell Johnston, the

member of Inverness,

summed up the reactions of

many of his colleagues in say-

ing that listening to the pre-

sident on Tuesday had been a

strange experience. He had

found nothing to criticize even

when he had read and reread

Mr Jenkins's remarks. Never-

theless it was odd that Mr

Jenkins had managed to speak

for nearly an hour without

either angering or delighting

anyone in the House.

There had been reason to

suppose that a president like

Mr Jenkins, who strongly sup-

ported a political role for the

Commission, might come for-

ward with some specific tar-

gets for action or some forceful

new initiatives.

The Christian Democrats

EST EUROPE

France warms to quiet Prime Minister in battle against inflation

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Feb 10
M Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, has reason to be satisfied. His anti-inflation plan which he has doggedly defended for the past four months is beginning to show results.

His own quiet, determined personality and his competence have slowly but surely made their mark on public opinion. The economic expert of a couple of months ago has turned into a political figure of the front rank.

Some observers already consider that he, not President Giscard d'Estaing, represents the government's best hope of resisting the challenge of M Jacques Chirac, leader of the Gaullist Rassemblement and a former Prime Minister.

This is confirmed by the latest Sofres opinion poll. It shows that in the popularity stakes, M Barre has jumped to second place among the personalities of the Government majority with 47 points. This is a rise of 13 points since December, the most spectacular breakthrough recorded by Sofres.

He now comes immediately after Mme Veil, the Health Minister, who has topped the poll for months, and before Mme Giroud, the State Secretary for Culture, hitherto the runner-up.

The Prime Minister's main support comes from the Centre-right and Independent Republicans. The Gaullists are somewhat less enthusiastic about him. But some Socialists have been won over, notably those who jib at voting for a Communist in the second ballot of elections.

L'Express staff support share deal

By Our Business News Staff
Proposals by Sir James Goldsmith's French master company to buy an important stake in L'Express, the French weekly news magazine, have won the backing of the magazine's editorial staff and shop floor workers. Earlier this week, the deal is expected to go through within the next seven or 10 days.

Broad agreement on terms has been reached between Sir James and M. Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, whose family interests control L'Express. It is expected that the purchase will be made by a subsidiary of Générale Occidentale, in which Sir James and his family have a holding of about a third.

In this respect, the deal will parallel the recent purchase by Cavenham, the British foods group, which is 51 per cent controlled by Générale Occidentale, of just over a third of Beaverbrook Newspapers' non-voting shares. This was Sir James's first foray into the newspaper field.

L'Express, which has a circulation of about 500,000, is a profitable concern, making consolidated profits of about £1.5m a year.

Charles Hargrove writes from Paris: Sir James's stake in L'Express will be 45 per cent. The price is reported to be in the region of 65m francs (£7.6m).

M Servan-Schreiber is selling most of his shares to finance the launching of a new Paris daily on the lines of The Financial Times. Sir James would also have a financial interest in the project.

The fact that Sir James has both French and British nationality has facilitated the sale. Under the press laws, no foreigner can acquire a controlling interest in a French newspaper.

The reason for M Barre's success is not far to seek. The despondency about the future at the end of last year has given way to a revival of optimism. The polls show that 65 per cent of the people are now satisfied with their living conditions, against 58 per cent in December.

The main preoccupation of Frenchmen, according to the poll, remains rising prices, but it is less acute than it was. On the other hand, unemployment is catching up as a cause for concern.

Of those polled 29 per cent think the Government's price freeze is effective against 11 per cent in December. But 66 per cent still regard it as ineffective.

President Giscard d'Estaing benefits from the improved political and economic climate. His stock as a defender of public liberties has risen as a result of his repeated assertion that he will stay in office to defend those liberties in the left-wing parliamentary elections next year.

Even his reputation as a reformer has improved. But the most spectacular change is that whereas in December a majority distrusted his conduct of economic policy, the reverse is now the case.

Le Figaro, which published the findings of the poll, notes that M Chirac has lost ground since December and suggests that perhaps he has chosen the wrong fight in seeking election as mayor of Paris. "Frenchmen show signs of thinking that the real battle is being fought over prices and not over the Paris town hall."

Commission plan to cut dairy surplus

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

A freeze on milk prices paid to farmers and a devaluation of at least 8 per cent in the "green pound" are among proposals which the EEC Commission wants to put to Community agricultural ministers next week.

The Commissioners want a price rise on milk for consumers to be matched by a similar levy on farmers. The sum involved has been put provisionally at 21 per cent. Proceeds of the levy would be used to promote consumption and cut the EEC surplus of 10 per cent in dairy produce.

Whether the levy and price rise should be imposed simultaneously or one in April and the other in September has still to be decided. The Commission has dropped its plan to tax fish and vegetable oils used in margarine to compensate for the impact of a milk levy on the price of butter. It is to seek a small butter subsidy instead.

The commission, whose announcement has been delayed by its change of presidency and membership, wants member governments to accept changes in "green" currencies, the devices with which uniform Community farm prices are expressed in national coinage.

It wants Britain to accept devaluation this year of between 8 and 103 per cent in two equal stages in April and mid-September.

A devaluation of 10 per cent, less than half of the gap between the "green pound" and the value of floating sterling, is estimated by the British Government to entail a rise of 23 per cent in food prices.

Hugh Clayton, page 12

OVERSEAS

Fairness of Delhi plot trial challenged

From Kuldip Nayyar

Delhi, Feb 10
Mr George Fernandes, the Socialist leader, told a Delhi magistrate today that he and his colleagues were not being given a fair trial. They had not been allowed to meet their lawyers for seven and a half months after their arrest.

Mr Fernandes and 24 other defendants are being tried on charges of having entered "into a well-planned and deep-rooted criminal conspiracy to overthrow by criminal force the central Government and to commit various offences."

Mr Fernandes claimed that in spite of the recovery of gelignite sticks and subversive literature from the accused in Delhi and elsewhere, the prosecution had admitted that "no direct evidence was available to establish that it was Mr Fernandes who was the master brain behind the conspiracy."

He accused the state of having used "its coercive apparatus to create evidence against him and his colleagues." He said that while the state was telling the world about the success of Mrs Gandhi's rule, he had been engaged in organising an underground resistance movement together with colleagues who valued freedom.

Mr C. G. K. Reddy, another defendant said: "All the rights of our people to liberty, to happiness, to life itself were taken away by one individual, her family, and the small coterie surrounding her."

The Janata Party, a coalition of four opposition parties, issued its election manifesto today, which leans heavily on Gandhian philosophy and promises an "open government in a free society". It pledges to restore fundamental rights to citizens and preserve the independence of the judiciary and the press.

Mr Charan Singh, the party's deputy chairman and former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, said that all presidential orders and constitutional amendments passed during the emergency would be repealed. His party believed in individual freedom.

The manifesto emphasizes the primacy of agriculture and promises that the party will move people from the cities to the countryside.

It supports the family planning programme but without compulsion. A civil rights commission is to be set up to ensure equal rights to minorities. A presidential order set the election for the central Parliament for March 16. Elections for a number of state Assemblies including that of India will be on March 18 and 19.

Seven Zanzibar plot death sentences confirmed

Dar es Salaam, Feb 10.—The Zanzibar Supreme Court has upheld death sentences on seven people condemned for plotting the abortive 1972 coup in which Shaikh Abid Karume, the island's leader, was assassinated.

Four of them, including the alleged leader of the coup, Abdurrahman Mohamed Babu, former Zanzibar Economic Affairs Minister, were tried in their absence. They are in detention on the Tanzanian mainland.

The Supreme Court commuted death sentences on 17 defendants to prison terms of from 30 to 35 years and reduced long prison sentences on another 10 of those convicted in connexion with the coup.

Mozambique railway network target for bombers Rhodesian raids across border may bring Cubans into battle

From Nicholas Ashford

Maputo, Feb 10
The increase in the number of Rhodesian incursions into Mozambique, ostensibly against guerrilla camps, may force the Mozambican Government to seek outside help in defending its borders.

The most recent attack took place a week ago, on the eve of the Frelimo Party congress in Maputo. A heavily armed Rhodesian force was said to have attacked a train between Maputo and Chicualacuala in the southern Gaza province, killing two civilians and injuring four.

There was another attack about the same time in the western-central province of Tete. The force was said to have penetrated to within eight miles of Tete City and temporarily cut the road link between there and the Cabora Bassa hydro-electric project 80 miles to the west. A road bridge between Cabora Bassa and the coast had already been destroyed in a raid last year.

Two other major incursions have been reported during the last six weeks. One was at the end of December, when the Rhodesian Air Force was said to have bombed the area

around Chitanga near the Rhodesian border. Another raid took place in the same region last month when a Rhodesian Air Force Canberra bomber was shot down. Parts of the wreckage are now on display in Maputo.

The attacks are taking a heavy toll on the country's rail system. Lines have been blown up and many locomotives have been damaged. The main railway repair yard in the capital is filled with damaged engines.

According to the Voice of Free Africa, an anti-Frelimo radio station broadcasting from UNTIL, most of these attacks have been carried out by units belonging to the Mozambique United Front (Fumo) and not by the Rhodesian armed forces.

However, Western diplomats here are convinced that while some black and white Mozambican exiles, including former Portuguese Army soldiers, are taking part in the attacks, all military activities in the border area are being coordinated from inside Rhodesia.

"No country can allow itself to go on being raped like this," one diplomat said. "Eventually Mozambique will have to seek outside help."

The question is where will the assistance come from? At

present Frelimo's "popular forces" are being supported by some Tanzanian units, probably numbering about 300 men. There are also a few Cuban, Soviet and other East European advisers.

Recently large quantities of arms have been unloaded in Mozambican ports, mainly in Nacala in the north but also in Beira and Maputo. But there are few Mozambicans or Rhodesian guerrillas sufficiently well trained to operate sophisticated weapons.

One answer would be the formation of a pan-African army against Mozambique, using experienced Nigerian troops as the nucleus. But the problems of creating such a force would be enormous.

"I fear the Mozambicans will have to accept the inevitable," the diplomat remarked, "which means looking to Cuba or some similar country for help."

Meanwhile, the situation in the border area has been further unsettled by outbreaks of factional fighting in the guerrilla camps. It is understood that some camps have become little more than personal fiefdoms of the local guerrilla commanders and that fighters belonging to rival factions have either been killed or driven out.

Dallas plans six Concorde trips a week

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, Feb 10
A Concorde service linking Europe to Dallas, Texas, was formally announced by Braniff Airways today after details were disclosed in The Times.

Mr Harding Lawrence, Braniff's chairman, said he hoped government approval would come in time for the service to start this summer.

The fare for the Dallas-Washington section, which Braniff would operate at subsonic speeds in extension of the British Airways and Air France supersonic flights from London and Paris, would be 10 per cent above current first-class fares.

The proposed Dallas to London single fare would be \$896 (about £525).

There would be three flights a week with each airline. Because of the time difference, passengers leaving Paris would arrive in Dallas at almost the same local time as they left. The main advantage to passengers is that they would not have to change airlines in Washington, as they do now, to catch a Concorde flight to Europe. Time saving between Dallas and Washington is negligible.

Plea to UN by descendants of Bounty mutineers

Sydney, Feb 10.—Leaders of a tiny South Pacific island, first inhabited by descendants of the Bounty mutineers, have called on the United Nations to protect them from being integrated politically with Australia.

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, said in a radio broadcast that the 1,600 people of Norfolk Island, yesterday posted their appeal to the United Nations committee of 24 on decolonization. They sent copies to Dr Waldheim, the Secretary-General, and the Australian Government.

Norfolk, a non-self governing territory administered from Canberra, is a lush sub-tropical island about 1,000 miles east of Australia.

An Australian royal commission has recommended that the islanders be included in the electorate of Canberra, so they can be represented in the Australian federal Parliament. The islanders would become Australian electors liable to the same taxes as Australians.

Announcing the appeal to the United Nations, Mr William Blucher, the senior councillor, said in a radio broadcast that the great majority of the people preferred their present status, closely linked to Australia, but with a locally-elected authority governing island affairs. Australia had declined to apply United Nations principles of self-determination and was unwilling to allow the islanders a referendum on the question.

He said most of the islanders were descended from the inhabitants of Pitcairn, farther east in the Pacific, where the crew of the Royal Navy ship Bounty settled after their mutiny in 1789 against Captain William Bligh.—Reuter.

Boxer given new life term for 1966 murders

Paterson, New Jersey, Feb 10.—The boxer, Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, who was convicted at a fresh trial of murdering three people here in 1966, has been sentenced in three terms of life imprisonment.

Mr Carter, aged 39, once a contender for the world middleweight title, and his sparring partner, John Artis, were granted the new trial after it was disclosed that the prosecution withheld evidence from the defence at their 1967 trial, when they were also found guilty.

Their cause was backed by a national campaign of fund-raising drives. Supporters included Bob Dylan and Joan Baez, the singers.

Before sentence was passed, Mr Carter told the court that he and Mr Artis, who also received the life sentences, had been twice convicted of the murders because they were black. He compared their treatment in the Paterson area with the position of Jews in Hitler's Germany.

They were charged with killing three whites in a bar at a time of racial tension here following the murder of a black bar owner by a white.—Reuter.

Tear gas used to break up Anguilla protest

Anguilla, Feb 10.—The police have used tear gas to disperse angry supporters of Mr Ronald Webster, the former Anguillian leader, as they tried to stop the installation of the new Anguillian Government.

Two people, a 50-year-old woman and a 51-year-old man, were injured in the clash outside the island's legislative assembly.

The swearing-in ceremony took place later yesterday. It was the second demonstration in a week against the dismissal of Mr Webster, who was replaced as Chief Minister by Mr David Le Breton, the British Commissioner, after losing a vote of confidence on February 1.—Reuter.

Drug addicts to die

Moscow, Feb 10.—A Georgia court has sentenced to death two members of a gang of drug addicts who carried out a series of violent crimes, including murder and robbery, according to the Georgia Communist Party newspaper, Zaria Vostoka.

Mr Ian Smith happy with S Africa talks

From Our Correspondent

Cape Town, Feb 10
Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, flew back to Salisbury from Cape Town today after a three-hour meeting with Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister.

He said at the airport: "We believe the talks will help us. The talks were very congenial and we tended to see things along the same lines."

Mr Smith said he hoped there would be new initiatives towards settling Rhodesia's future. He was ready and willing to listen and talk to anyone offering "constructive suggestions". If outside efforts to settle failed, the Rhodesian Government would continue working towards a settlement internally.

Our Salisbury Correspondent writes: The guerrilla war in Rhodesia has claimed another 41 more lives. A security force communiqué today said that since February 8, another 18 guerrillas had been killed. Four African women and four African men running with the guerrillas and actively assisting them had also been killed and five blacks had been shot dead by security forces while breaking the curfew in the operational area at night.

The statement said that guerrillas had murdered seven more African tribesmen and two tribeswomen in the operational area.

The interdenominational funeral today for the seven Roman Catholic missionaries murdered at the St Paul's Mission, near Salisbury, last weekend was marred here this morning when a small group of about five angry whites left the service and one man called out: "Why don't they arrest that black bastard?" He was referring to comments made during the service by the senior African priest in Rhodesia, Father Isidore Chikore, who had associated himself with a

statement made the pre day by the Catholic Bishop Umtali, Mgr Lamont, who laid the responsibility for killings indirectly on the Rhodesian Government.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: The Foreign Office now received the invitation from Rhodesia, reported in Times yesterday, inviting Mps to investigate massacres at St Paul's Mission. This is a matter Parliament to decide, a spokesman said yesterday the Foreign Office did not think all-party delegation was to succeed in identifying responsible for the murder.

Our Washington Correspondent writes: Mr Cyrus Vance, Secretary of State, today to Congress to urge the of the Byrd Amendment permits imports of chrome from Rhodesia.

Peter Strafford writes New York: Britain has a state trading organization the Soviet Union and East European countries breaking sanctions and with Rhodesia. The trade carried out via three companies, all based in Ceylon which existed solely for ing cover for "a major British officials alleged.

The accusations are listed in the latest report Security Council sanctions committee. The report says the accusation was categorically denied by Russia. At

Romanians. According to British sources, the British-owned Michelle Enterprises, a Salisbury, which exports tobacco and other agricultural commodities from Rhodesia imported chemicals, met agricultural requirements, trade was carried out through organizations Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria and Germany.

Uganda calls in Britons to revive cattle ranches

From Judith Lisrowel

Kampala, Feb 10
President Amin of Uganda is setting up the largest cattle ranches in Africa. He has invited British cattle experts to buy 3,000 head of cattle, mainly cows in calf, for the new ranch in the West Nile District. The cattle costing £30m are to be bought in Britain and on the Continent.

The funds for this vast enterprise were donated by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The purpose is to provide sufficient milk, butter and cheese for the 11 million Ugandans, and beef for export.

Uganda's economy reached rock-bottom 18 months ago. The hard, difficult ascent has begun and the great cattle scheme will mean an important step forward.

Several large cattle ranches have existed in Uganda for a long time, but in recent years the condition of the cattle has sadly deteriorated. Lack of expertise and minerals, and shortage of fodder are to be blamed.

The one exception is the Uganda Livestock Industries at Acholi-Asswa, originally financed by the World Bank and now administered by Mr Robert Origel, an African cattleman. His need for fresh blood to renew his stock will now be satisfied from the newly imported beef bulls.

When finally developed, the cattle scheme will consist of 70 ranches: 40 in Kilak, West Nile district, 10 in the East Nile, and 20 more in the North Nile and West Nile districts.

Already delivered are 1,500 head of Boran breeding stock from Kenya. Mr Peter Gaymer, who is in charge of the scheme, has had an unusual career. His father

took him out of school age of 14 because he learning, and told him are wasting your time money. As of Monday start work on the farm the years, he became a farmer.

Someone had to be run the dairy project semi-derelect old ranch Gaymer is an Essex knows all the good for his country. Last December rang up Mr George and asked him when would be prepared to Uganda to administer the scheme.

Mr Magnay agreed to ple before any were taken, the came to see how he using his own farm. T daily impressed and la Mr Gaymer flew Mr and two other Essex Kampala.

They then flew on new ranch of Pakwa Agot Afaya in the W District. Pakwach ranch 350 square miles, w soil and plenty of w Magnay agreed to sign year contract.

In his view the l and breeding of 50,000 cattle, which will i timum milk yields ar up to the Uganda clim take something like a c

Mr Magnay had a unprepared. At Banku market, in the Midl had seen Mr Jim Wat of the best cattleman land for this job. He to buy Friesians thr Watson. They are to out after being p tested and certified i calf. Their calves ar born in Uganda so a acclimatized.

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an Smith
S Africa

President er sted in scow

Feb 10.—Soviet in-
today arrested Dr.
leader of the most
sident group in the
nion, his friends re-
ted prominent dissen-
rounded-up in the
he was taken into
a suburban Moscow
lay after he returned
pital from hiding in
ry for a week.
was came from him this
is the home of Miss
Alexeyeva, a fellow
Miss Alexeyeva told
tents that the men,
the uniform of the
"office and one in
ies, told her when she
a door: "We're look-
neone who thinks like
her dissidents quickly
telegram of protest
Drlov's arrest to the
the 35 European and
merican states, which
rements reached at
near security confer-
felsinki in 1975.
gram said: "We re-
arrest as an event of
al significance, as a
to the governments
opinion of all coun-
signed the Final Act
sement in Helsinki."
lov, a diminutive,
ed man who worked
ist until he was dis-
1973 for defending
dent scientist, Dr
charov, heads a group
st May to monitor
servance of human
ises in the Helsinki
—Reuter.

Dubcek support for Czechoslovak human rights group

Vienna, Feb 10.—Mr Alex-
ander Dubcek, the ousted
leader of the 1968 "Prague
spring" Government, has orally
supported the Czechoslovak
group behind the Charter 77
human rights manifesto. It was
reported in Vienna.
The Austrian Socialist Party
newspaper, Arbeiter-Zeitung
quoted a friend of Mr Dubcek
saying that he had not
learned of the contents of the
charter until very late and had
been unable to sign it because
he lives under strict police sur-
veillance in Bratislava. But he
had managed to indicate his
support through an intermediary.
Mr Dubcek's verbal support
for the charter was cited to
the correspondents by its
authors as proof that they were
not isolated from their former
comrades in the "Prague
spring" movement, the
Arbeiter-Zeitung said.
The Austrian Communist
Party newspaper Volksturnung
had claimed that Mr Dubcek
had refused to sign the
charter. But sources in Prague
close to Mr Dubcek, said that
any contact with him or with
any member of his family.
According to the quoted in-
termediary, Mr Dubcek had
said that the charter fully
corresponded to what he had
repeatedly expressed in his let-
ters in the past.
Arbeiter-Zeitung said that
with Mr Dubcek's support, the
list of prominent representa-
tives of the "Prague spring"
supporting the charter was
complete, with the exception

of Mr Oldrich Cernik, the
former Prime Minister.
However, Mr Cernik, under-
stood an act of self-criticism in
1970, thus preventing his
expulsion from the Czechoslov-
ak Communist Party—Agence
France-Presse and AP.
Prague: Mr Dubcek is
reported to be working as an
office clerk for a wine firm in
Bratislava.
Last June his former private
secretary, Mr Oldrich Jaros,
tried to visit him but he said
later that he had been physi-
cally prevented from doing so
by Interior Ministry officials.
The Slovak newspaper
Smena today singled out Pro-
fessor Jan Patocka, one of the
Charter 77 spokesmen, for cri-
ticism.
Agence France-Presse and AP.
Paris: Mr Paul Goma, the
Romanian author today came
out in support of the Charter
77 movement and attacked the
Romanian authorities.
In an open letter from
Bucharest to the Czechoslovak
dissidents published in Le
Monde, Mr Goma said: "You,
as the Poles, the East Ger-
mans, the Hungarians, the Bul-
garians, live under Russian
occupation. We Romanians live
under Romanian occupation—
ultimately more painful, more
efficient than a foreign occupa-
tion."—Reuter.
Commons motion: More than
100 MPs of all parties have
signed the Commons motion
recognizing "the courage of the
Czechoslovak signatories of
Charter 77" and calling on the
Prague Government to imple-
ment the Helsinki agreement.

Israel stays firm in Waldheim talks

From Eric Marsden
Jerusalem, Feb 10
Dr Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-
General of the United Nations,
held five hours of talks with
Israel's leaders today, but al-
though officials said the meet-
ings had "cleared the air",
they brought no progress on
ways of moving towards a
peaceful solution in the Middle
East.
Dr Waldheim, who was re-
ported to have been upset on
the eve of his visit by a state-
ment by Mr Allon, the Foreign
Minister, that the United
Nations would be given no role
to play in peace talks, was
given a cordial welcome. He
held talks for three hours in
the morning with Mr Allon and
his advisers and in the evening
spent two hours with Israel's
ministerial negotiating team:
Mr Rabin, the Prime Minister;
Mr Allon and Mr Peres, the De-
fence Minister.
On leaving the Prime Minis-
ter's office, Dr Waldheim said
he had been assured that Israel
was ready to go to Geneva with-
out delay under "certain cir-
cumstances". The problem of
Palestinian participation had
not been solved and he was
unable to predict a date for the
conference.
Mr Allon made it clear that
the "circumstances" were that
the Geneva conference must be
reconvened on the original
basis of December, 1973, which
meant that it must be between
Israel and the Arab states in
attendance to Security Council
resolution 338.
Dr Waldheim reported on his
talks with Arab leaders, saying
that all of them had empha-
sized that the Palestine Libera-
tion Organization must take
part in the Geneva conference.
Mr Yassir Arafat, the PLO
leader, had told him that the
PLO was ready to set up an
independent state alongside
Israel.
Some observers were predict-
ing tonight that when Dr Wal-
dheim, who has been in Cairo
tomorrow that he has been
unable to find scope for com-
promise between the Arab and
Israeli views on Palestinian
representation at Geneva, the
Arab states will call for a
Security Council meeting on
the subject.
Dr Waldheim arrived from
Amman this morning in "UN
One", a white-painted Fokker
Friendship aircraft. He was
making the first direct flight
from the Jordanian capital to
the Jerusalem airport at
Kalandia since it was captured
in the Six-Day War in 1967.



Mr Allon, wearing glasses, greets Dr Waldheim in Jerusalem.

Why Syrians stay near frontier Secret of Crusaders' castle in Lebanon

From Robert Fisk
Nabatea, Southern Lebanon,
Feb 10
Eight rain-soaked soldiers,
their Wellington boots covered
in mud and their rifle ammuni-
tion clips swaddled in adhesive
tape to keep out the damp, form
the vanguard of the Syrian
Army in southern Lebanon.
They stand at a road block
two miles south-east of Nabatea
—a rectangular township with
a single restaurant, a row of
old garages and dirty car repair
shops and a few small farms—
just six miles from the nearest
barbed wire on the Israeli
frontier.
Around them in the wet fields
are a huddle of tents. An
armoured troop carrier is
parked on the hill to the north
and just behind it is a Russian-
built tank so smothered in tar-
paulins that only the muzzle is
visible.
The Israelis claim that the
presence of Syrian troops so
near their border represents a
military threat; that is why
they are insisting that the
Syrians withdraw from Nabatea.
The Syrians, who form the
bulwark of the 30,000 strong
Arab League peacekeeping army
in Lebanon, say that their pre-
sence is justified by the need
to prevent the movement of
heavy arms after the civil war
and to stop the fighting which
continues in the south between
Palestinian-Leftist and Phalang-
ist forces. The Palestinians and
the Lebanese Arab Army, the
disgruntled Muslim wing of the
old national army which has
somehow maintained its war-
time identity here in the moun-
tains, say nothing.
But the real reason behind
the Syrian presence outside
Nabatea, and the silence of the
Palestinians, may have nothing
to do with the isolated
battles which occasionally take
place between here and the
Israeli border.
The real reason might cause
some surprise to the Israelis
themselves. For it is just pos-
sible that the explanation for
the Syrian advance into this
part of southern Lebanon lies
behind the walls of a half-
ruined twelfth-century castle
perched on a 1,000ft precipice
above the Litar river.
One has to introduce that el-
ement of doubt into one's suspi-
cions for no one, not even the
Syrians, has been allowed by
the leftist armies to enter the
Crusader ramparts of Beau-
fort Castle. Even before they
reach the guard post of the Leb-
anese Arab Army on a lane off
the road south-east of Nabatea,
travellers are stopped by two

more Syrian soldiers who turn
them away.
These two soldiers are
approximately four miles and a
half from the Israeli border
but they cannot see Israel from
the lane because beyond them,
through the drifting rain and
the clouds, stand the western
walls of the keep.
From this side, the castle
looks accessible enough. In-
deed, there are deep tracks
through the mud across the
fields as if heavy vehicles have
recently been driven up to-
wards the walls.
From the other side, a cliff
face falls sheer down towards
the Litar. So high is the castle
that the Palestinians inside—
and the Palestinians have al-
ways acknowledged that they
keep a reconnaissance post
there—can look across all of
Mount Hermon.
This morning, however, it was
possible to take one's way
through the Syrian roadblock
on the lane and drive a mile
and a half nearer to Beaufort
Castle.
A man in the uniform of a
lieutenant, who runs the post
from a draughty shack with a
radio telephone that works in a
crackling, unpredictable sort of
way on a wooden table, ex-
plained that the Syrians still
allowed him to drive in to the
town of Nabatea for supplies
but would not permit ammuni-
tion to be brought in.
Could one visit the castle?
There was a conversation over
the telephone. Under no cir-
cumstances, the lieutenant said. Be-
sides, his most senior officer
was not present. He was at a
conference in Beirut.
The lieutenant did not want
to talk about those wheel tracks
through the fields, perhaps with
good reason. Over the past
two weeks President Sarkis and
the commanders of the peace-
keeping army in Beirut have
been announcing almost daily
that the private armies who
were supposed to surrender
their heavy guns at the end of
the civil war had concealed a
large part of their equipment.
If the Palestinians have
chosen Beaufort Castle as one
of their last arsenals, then they
have picked a location whose
history certainly matches the
violence of the last two years
in Lebanon.
William of Tyre records how
Saladin laid siege to the enor-
mous fortress in 1192, tricking
its Christian defender into
peace talks and then torturing
him before the walls of the
castle while the defenders
watched helplessly.

I text of Charter 77 manifesto

Following is the first
translation of the
Charter 77, to reach
the public.

Czechoslovak Register of
10 of October 13, 1976,
published of the inter-
venant and other organi-
gms, and of the inter-
venant on Economic,
Cultural Rights, which
of a half of the
968, reiterated at Hail-
5 and came into force
on March 23, 1976.
date our citizens have
rights, and our civil
ness from them.
in rights and freedoms
by these covenants
sures of civilized life
any progressive move-
striven throughout his-
tory codification could
human developments
ly, rightly welcome the
the Socialist Republic's
those agreements.
lication, however,
powerful reminder of
to which basic human
country exist, regret-
up alone.
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ground of friendship and soli-
darity among people who share
our concern for those ideals that
have inspired and continue to
inspire, their lives and their work.
Charter 77 is not an organiza-
tion; it has no rules, permanent
bodies or formal membership. It
embraces everyone who agrees
with its ideas and participates in
its work. It does not form the
basis for any oppositional political
activity. Like many similar citizen
initiatives in various countries,
West and East, it seeks to promote
the universal public interest.
It does not aim, then, to set
out its own platform of political
or social reform or change, but
within its own field of impact to
conduct a constructive dialogue
with the political and state
authorities, particularly by draw-
ing attention to individual cases
where human and civic rights are
violated, to document such
grievances and suggest remedies,
to make proposals of a more
general character intended to re-
inforce such rights and machinery
for protecting them, to act as in-
termediary in situations of conflict
which may lead to violation of
rights, and so forth.
By its symbolic name Charter 77
denotes that it has come into
being at the start of what is
claimed as Political Prisoners'
Year—a year in which a confer-
ence in Belgrade is due to review
the implementation of the
obligations assumed at Helsinki.
As signatories, we hereby
authorize Professor Dr Jan
Patocka, Dr Vlastislav Plesch
and Professor Dr Jiri Hájek to act as
the spokesmen for the Charter.
These spokesmen are endowed with
full authority to represent it vis-
à-vis state and other bodies, and
the public at home and abroad,
and their signatures attest the
authenticity of documents issued
by the Charter. They will have re-
sponsibility, taking part in any
negotiations, shouldering
particular risks and sharing every
responsibility.
We believe that Charter 77 will
bring to enable all the citizens
of Czechoslovakia to work and
live as free human beings.
In cases of prosecution on poli-
tical grounds the investigative and
judicial organs violate the rights
of those charged and of those
defending them, as guaranteed by
article 14 of the first covenant, and
induced by Czechoslovak law. The
prison treatment of those senten-
ced in such cases is in violation
of their human dignity and a
menace to their health, being
aimed at breaking their morale.
Clause 2, article 13 of the first
covenant, guaranteed every citi-
zen the right to leave the country;
is consistently violated, or under
the pretence of security, is subjected
to various unjustifiable conditions
(clause 3). The granting of entry
visas to foreigners is also treated
arbitrarily, and many are re-
fused to visit Czechoslovakia merely
because of professional or personal
contacts with those of our citizens
who are subject to discrimination.
Some of our people—either in
private, at their places of work
or by the only feasible public
channel, the foreign media—have
drawn attention to the systematic
violation of human rights and
democratic freedoms in specific cases.
But their pleas have remained
largely ignored or been made
groundless by public investigation.
Responsibility for the main-
tenance of civic rights in our
country naturally devolves in the
first place on the political and
state authorities. Yet not only on
them; everyone bears his share of
responsibility for the conditions
that prevail and accordingly also
for the observance of legally
enshrined agreements, binding
upon all individuals as well as
upon governments.
It is this sense of co-responsi-
bility, our belief in the importance
of its conscious public acceptance
and the general need to give it
new and more effective expression
that led us to the idea of creating
Charter 77, whose inception we
today publicly announce.
Charter 77 is a loose, informal
and open association of people of
various shades of opinion, faiths
and professions united by the will
to strive individually and collec-
tively for the respecting of civic
and human rights in our own
country and throughout the world.
—rights accorded to all men by
the two mentioned international
covenants, by the Final Act of the
Helsinki conference and by
numerous other international
documents opposing war, violence
and social or political oppression,
and which are collectively laid
down in the UN Universal
Charter of Human Rights.
Charter 77 springs from a back-

month's disturbances over price
increases for food and other
commodities, in which about 80
people were killed and 800 in-
jured.
President Sadat said the riot-
ing was part of a communist
plot to overthrow him.
Observers here see the
referendum as a test of confi-
dence in the Egyptian Govern-
ment. Only a simple majority
of the ballots cast by the
9,600,000 registered voters will
be needed for the proposals to
become law.
Cairo's newspapers, radio
and television have urged
voters to endorse Mr Sadat's
measures. The results are ex-
pected to be announced tomor-
row.

Egyptians vote on Sadat plan to curb disorders

From Our Correspondent
Cairo, Feb 10
Egyptians voted in a referen-
dum today on a series of
measures introduced by Presi-
dent Sadat to outlaw demon-
strations, strikes and sit-ins.
The proposals provide for
sentences of hard labour for
life for rioting and sabotaging
property. Tax evaders will also
be an offence punishable by
hard labour, but President
Sadat's draft law exempts the
poor and small farmers from
all taxes.
The package is expected to
be overwhelmingly endorsed by
the people, despite appeals by
the leftist Progressive Unionist
Party to reject them.
The proposals stem from last

Queen Alia is buried in
grounds of her palace

Amman, Feb 10.—King
Husain of Jordan stood grief-
stricken at the graveside today
as his 28-year-old wife, killed
in a helicopter crash yesterday,
was buried in the grounds of a
palace he built for her only
four months ago.
President Hafiz al-Assad, of
Syria, who was host to the King
and Queen Alia in Damascus
last Sunday, stood beside the
monarch as the coffin was
lowered into a hilltop grave.
Few other foreign leaders
had time to reach Amman for
the funeral. An exception was
Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher,
the West German Foreign
Minister, who cancelled an of-
ficial two-day visit to Jordan, due
to begin today, but flew from
Damascus to represent his coun-
try at the funeral.
Empress Farah of Iran arrived
at the Hashimiyah Palace, 10
miles west of Amman, as a 21-
gun salute signalled the lower-
ing of the coffin.
Mr Muhammad al-Bashir, the
Jordanian Health Minister, the
pilot and a military doctor died
with Queen Alia when the heli-
copter crashed in flames in
rainstorm 12 miles south of
here.
On the way to the graveside,
King Husain, wearing a dark
civilian suit, was accompanied
by President Assad in the first
car behind the bier.
Herr Genscher travelled in
the second car.—Reuter.

Queen Alia is buried in grounds of her palace

UN concern over
conditions
in Israeli jails

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Feb 10
The United Nations Human
Rights Commission decided
today to send a telegram to the
Israeli Government expressing
concern at reports of "the
death of Arab detainees in
Israeli prisons, which are attrib-
utable to the conditions of
their imprisonment".
There were 22 votes in
favour. The United States,
Canada and Costa Rica voted
against and five countries
abstained—Britain, Italy,
Rwanda, Sweden and West
Germany.
The telegram calls for obser-
vance of the Geneva conven-
tions and an improvement in
prison conditions.

UN concern over conditions in Israeli jails

Time you made
the great change to Dodge
We'll take you
for a test drive.
Not for a ride.

Before you drive a commercial
vehicle, try out its commercial
performance. Payload. Economy.
Price. In the Dodge Spacevan,
(15 cwt, 18 cwt or 22 cwt), it's a
joy ride from start to finish.

Well-appointed cab has
extra fittings at no extra
cost. And when you park,
you'll find that the Spacevan
has the shortest overall
length of comparable vans.

Choice of proven
petrol engines or
tough reliable diesel;
the latter can often do
40 mpg*. Optional overdrive
or automatic according to engine.

*Motor Transport, March 14, 1976.

DODGE
SPACEVAN

Check the 200 cubic
foot load space with a
real load. This is the
Spacevan—with the
biggest useable load
volume on the market.

A long or high load? The
Spacevan has the best load
length on the market. And
the best interior height
of any comparable
van, too.

A body for every-
body. There are
factory built
Spacevans, light bus,
chassis cab, drive-away
front end; plus over 40
special approved bodies.

If you
forgot to talk price
the Spacevan stands
comparison with any
similar van on the
market. Which has to be
best value! Now drive!

CHRYSLER
UNITED KINGDOM

Dodge Trucks one great name world-wide

Which way out of our educational uncertainties?

The theme of Rhodes Boyson "bring back the tests, one sure way to make education work" (*The Times*, December 30) holds a sufficient element of truth to appear attractive, without revealing the disasters such a policy would bring. A similar comment could be levelled at other "cure-all" schemes that have been pressed on schools in the past 15 years. The present debate will produce little of value unless some unpalatable truths are faced, the right questions asked, and it is realised that few slogan solutions work in education, or indeed anywhere else.

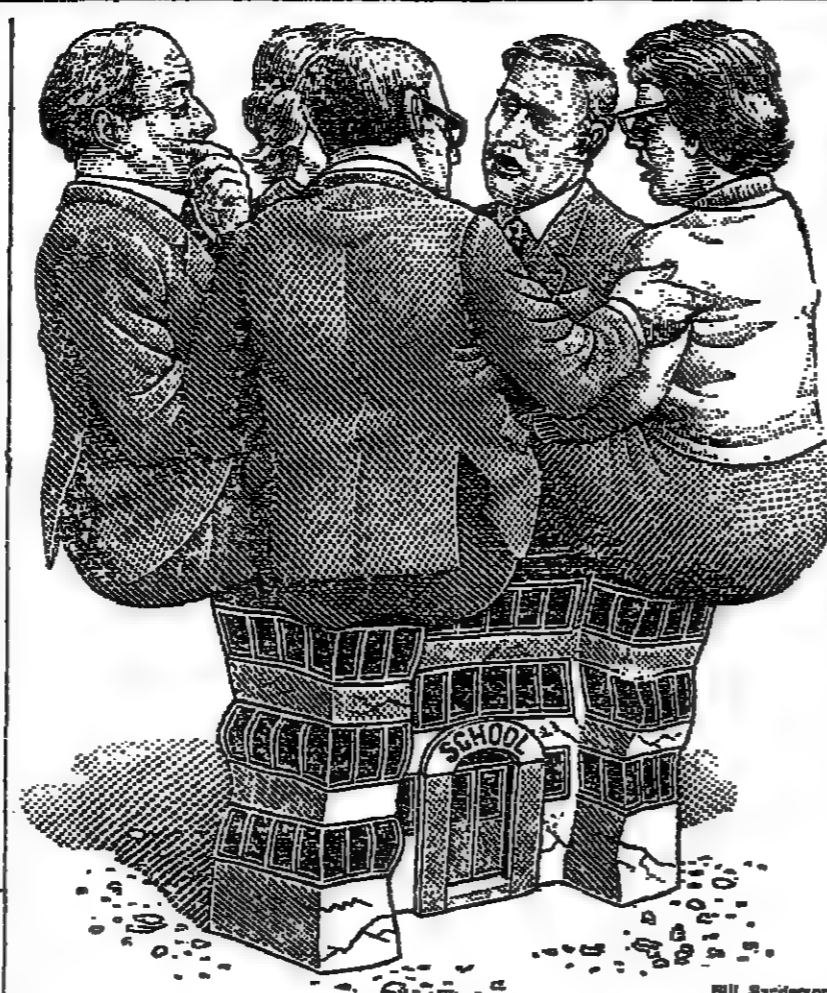
Despite its present clamour about schools, the British establishment have never taken universal secondary education seriously. For many, "high educational standards" implies Winchester, Eton and the like, the pursuit of attainment—particularly when dependent on entry by competition—are not the same as educational standards as such. Some of the greatest educational skills are probably developed and deployed in some classes for slow learners or where there is a significant proportion of "awkward" pupils who cannot be denied entry to the classroom elsewhere but unlike the medical profession who learn about health from the sick, esteem in teaching has been a reverse of the real priorities.

Too often today the least experienced and least "qualified" teachers are assigned the most "difficult" classes, and promotion is out of the classroom altogether. Who would send the least skilled engineer to service or repair the most delicate and fault-prone machine? In schools we do it every day—to human beings. If our approach to human relations in schools is so insensitive, we can hardly be surprised at some of our industrial relations.

And yet some are looking to the schools for industrial and technical salvation. On improving our approach to technical matters a little can be learned from the question "Why was Outland the exception and not the rule?"

Colleges of education have had few supporters among experienced classroom teachers since the early 1960s, but few of their sternest critics would wish on them the limiting Boyson role of producing "teachers equipped with classroom skills and a body of knowledge and understanding of the established curriculum they had to teach". This may be part of any requirement; but on its own it is instruction for instruction, the narrow brief of instruction has social class implications which are limiting and repressive, whereas education should be universal and liberating. Education is more about learning than teaching, lighting fires not filling pots.

Whatever the need for new educational certainties, they cannot be imposed by statute for the relative simplicity of the old "elementary" education, from which bright boys and girls were able to "escape" to higher things. Whatever virtues were found in elementary classrooms they were found in the relative simplicity of the old "elementary" education, from which bright boys and girls were able to "escape" to higher things. Whatever virtues were found in elementary classrooms they were found in the relative simplicity of the old "elementary" education, from which bright boys and girls were able to "escape" to higher things.



If such a system of latter day "elementary" education, together with the proposed public examinations of attainment at 7, 11 and 15 and associated public and open competition between schools were to be introduced, then education in its real sense could disappear for many children. Instead mechanistic instruction on a centrally controlled syllabus would take its place. Worst of all human worth would inevitably be associated with a gigantic national race for the young with possible branding for life at 16. Personal and class rivalries would be encouraged; divisions in the teaching profession would grow, and snobbery and social divisiveness could return to levels that are too often and too easily forgotten.

But if not back, which way forward? If we reject the "regressive" is the "progressive" answer the only alternative? Despite suggestions to the contrary there is no single "pro-

gressive" educational philosophy. Many teachers who would wholeheartedly reject the "regressive" approach are concerned about standards and skills, and are not happy with all the developments in schools of recent years. For many the answers to our undoubted dilemmas are not to be found in the nostrums of either the regressive or progressive extremes. Both tend to ignore the priority need for a stable learning environment for pupils that both motivates and matures in accordance with their unique needs. The grammar school was not designed for this as they fitted pupils to their fixed educational purposes; some comprehensive schools have not fulfilled their potential because they have not realized what it is.

We have no agreed secondary rationale; instead a whiff of the Poor Law mires with the precepts of Dr Arnold for a television generation brought up on Dr Who. The central problems of motivation, learning, assessment and standards have yet to be tackled properly.

Some schools retaining broadly traditional methods create excellent educational standards; in others morale, motivation, and standards can be poor. Conversely some schools consciously adopting "progressive" systems find that in practice they do not fall and things never really take off, whereas elsewhere the same systems appear to produce a white heat of educational fervour. On one hand traditional educational rigidity can produce a lifeless charade of a school, on the other liberty can descend into licensed chaos, if not professional irresponsibility.

If a national consensus is anywhere

it is in a return to educational fundamentals and practical development of them in the schools, instead of unthinking adoption of inherited patterns, systems superimposed from outside, or chosen off the shelves of the educational supermarkets. In this process the experience, minds and skills of long serving and successful classroom teachers of ordinary or "difficult" children in areas of unhelpful social conditions are crucial. Alas the structure and operation of our educational world does not recognize that these teachers have themselves been subject to a unique learning experience that no university in the world can provide; still less does the system set out to harness and use what they have learnt. The British establishment does not think like this, yet it did them some good might come from the so called educational debate, for which there is no motion.

In the meantime three things could be done to help. All Department of Education officials should spend a year on assignment to an education authority early in their careers. All education authority administrators and inspectors should spend a compulsory sabbatical term teaching in a "difficult" school of another authority. Recruits to teacher training courses should be carefully selected from a broad bandwidth of work experience at no younger than 23, and be paid accordingly. These things might make some pigeons flutter, but children, schools and the nation would gain.

Nigel Sparing

The author is Labour MP for Newham South.

The green pound in our pocket

● If there was a partial valuation of a pound of about 20 per cent, it would add as much as 10 per cent to retail food prices, Mr. Jack Jones, O.C. 1976.

● Phasing out of the pound could add as much as 12 per cent to retail food prices, Mr. David Orr, chairman of the Food Commission, O.C. 1976.

● The risk of food price inflation knocking on the 10 per cent level next year can be ruled out, Lord Trentham, president of the Institute of Grocery Distributors, O.C. 1976.

● It has been estimated a 10 per cent devaluation of the pound might, under certain assumptions, time lag, increase average food prices by about 10 per cent, Mr. Edward Bishop, secretary of the State for Agriculture, O.C. 1976.

● Food prices may rise as much as 23 per cent in 1977, Greenwell, stock, January, 1977.

It is easy to forget on a wet winter day that food is still being pushed the drought of 1976. The drought, which crops could not grow, is now left with stock of vegetables, often different quality, so that importing instant meat, Canada and frozen peas, New Zealand.

The drought is only a threat to malnutrition in food prices that even more severe the accelerating rise in the cost of living.

The way of prices down would be a fine favourable weather make the pound worth more than it is in foreign markets. Failing such tricks the Government left with the "green" pound, the phantom currency, the centre of the food adopted by Mr. John Silcock, anti-market Mink Agriculture, Fisheries, since Britain joined the E.C. is using the pound position as a means of British food prices down.

Such use is consistent with the payment of a pig, and EEC protests assistance on the need to go beyond Communism if necessary.

Hugh C. > £10.25

Cutting the genetic risk

Faced with a patient with a progressive, irreversible disease, many doctors switch off emotionally and avoid close contact, embarrassed by their inability to hold out any prospect of cure. Yet recently in the case of advanced cancer more and more doctors, nurses, and other medical staff have been discovering how rewarding it may be to abandon deception and euphemisms and join with the patient in planning the control of symptoms during the last months of his or her illness.

This positive attitude is also percolating into the harrowing area of childhood diseases such as the muscular dystrophies, for which a new trial of treatment has just started in London. The

muscular dystrophies are inherited diseases in which the muscles progressively weaken and eventually lose virtually all power of contraction. Duchenne's dystrophy, the most common variety, is found only in boys (because the defect is in one of the sex chromosomes) and in Britain about one in every 3,000 is affected. The boy seems quite normal at birth; only after 18 months to two years do symptoms develop, when the child's walking may be seen to be a little clumsy. Soon thereafter the child notices that he falls over more frequently than normal and that he cannot raise his legs high enough to run. As the boy grows his coordination may improve, but the weakness that started in his legs spreads to other muscular groups, and by the time he starts school he is obviously handicapped. Sometime in the early teens the child becomes unable to walk and has to take to a wheelchair.

Eventually weakness of the muscles in the chest affects respiration and leads to a succession of attacks of pneumonia and so to the final, fatal stage of the illness. The other less common variants of muscular dystrophy are mostly inherited in a different way and some may affect girls as well as boys. The age of onset is often later and the progression may be much less rapid. Some forms, such as myotonic dystrophy, do not shorten the life-span to any great extent, and affected individuals may have families.

Advice on family planning is, indeed, one of the most important aspects of the medical care of dystrophic patients and their relatives. Clearly the parents of a child who develops muscular dystrophy need to know whether any later children they might have would be affected, and the apparently normal brothers, sisters, and cousins also need expert advice on their chance of being carriers of the abnormality. The first essential is accurate diagnosis—counselling about the genetic risks for his family cannot begin until the type of dystrophy is established for certain, and this may require laboratory tests as well as expert physical examination.

In Duchenne's dystrophy the pattern of inheritance is clear: just as in haemophilia, the disease affects males but is transmitted by females. Healthy male relatives of a child with Duchenne's dystrophy cannot be carriers, but his sisters have a 50 per cent chance of carrying the defective gene. Those who are carriers almost always have abnormal amounts of the enzyme creatine kinase in their blood. Genetic counselling is based on a combination of the results of repeated blood tests and a detailed family history, and the results are reassuringly reliable. As the Institute of Child Health in London, for example, in the past ten years advice has been given to 71 women of childbearing age.

Twenty-five were told they had a high risk of being carriers, and only seven were prepared to plan further pregnancies— with the intention of using tests for determining the sex of the fetus early enough to permit termination if a female was born. In contrast, 46 women were told that their risk of being carriers was low: between them they had 25 daughters and 19 sons, none of whom showed any evidence of the disease.

A blood test can now be done to determine whether or not a boy will later develop Duchenne's dystrophy, but the procedure has limited value. The early warning it gives may prevent a couple having other children before their first-born develops symptoms, but the test cannot be used to delay or prevent the onset of the disease.

Incubability does not, however, mean the disease is untreatable. There is no doubt that regular assessment, physio-

therapy, and the judicious use of braces and orthopaedic operations can minimise the disabling contractions of the muscles and distortion of the bones of the spine that may otherwise occur, so keeping the child mobile for as long as possible. A trial is beginning at the Jerry Lewis Muscular Research Centre and the Department of Child Health at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School of the value of repeated physiotherapy in maintaining muscle strength.

These lines are a great boost for the morale of the child and his parents; they need to know that the progress of the disease is to be challenged and delayed at every stage, and that full advantage will be taken of the muscle function that remains.

Furthermore there are hopeful signs on the horizon. Research in Britain and elsewhere is moving ever closer to the identification of the exact nature of the genetic defect responsible for the muscular

Dr Tony Smith
Medical Correspondent

Children's Teacher-Companion

Would English teacher like to spend July and August 1977 with us? We are a family with two French speaking children (9 and 7) and live in Zurich. We would like qualified English teacher aged between 24 and 34 to teach English during summer holidays, but also willing to take care of them.

House comfortable, remuneration excellent, references, photos, write cipher 61/053 to

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COOK/HOUSEKEEPER

Required for English family living in south of France. Plain cooking to a good standard and general housework. Experienced, able to drive, some French useful, but not essential.

Must have references for a permanent position with good salary in pleasant surroundings.

Telephone 01-626 4948 for interview.

CAPABLE PERSON

REQUIRED AS COMPANION

to elderly lady, permanent position in country estate. Accompany to London, Paris, Rome, Venice, etc. References, photos, write cipher 61/053 to

RECEPTIONIST/HOUSEKEEPER

aged between 20 and 40, required for receptionist and housekeeping duties. Good salary and excellent working conditions. Apply Box 3509 J, The Times.

COOK/HOUSEKEEPER

Responsible person only required to run modern house in N. Ireland. Top pay and good time. References essential. Phone 580 7541, or 458 1212

BUTLER

Embassy seeks experienced French butler: lunches, cocktails, parties, etc. References required.

Box 0123 J The Times

BUTLER/VALET

required for international businessman. Some chauffeur, considerable travel, Monaco, France, England. Excellent terms, conditions and accommodation. Apply only with first class references to Box 0520 J, The Times.

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required for children (10 and 12).

REQUIRED

BEST FILIPINO domestic. Good salary, references, photos, write cipher 61/053 to

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OXFORD & COUNTY Secondary College, 34 St Giles, Oxford, OX4 6DE. Courses Sep, Jan, Apr, Oct. 1977. Apply Box 3509 J, The Times.

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The course is designed for postgraduate students who wish to obtain a first class honours degree in Physics. The course is taught by leading experts in the field and includes a wide range of topics in solid state physics. For further details see the prospectus or contact the Director of the course, Dr. J. H. W. Lam, at the University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN.

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NOTICE is hereby given that the transfer books for the year 1977 are now open for business. The books are available for purchase from the following firms: [List of firms]

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Business Opportunities

AMERICAN MANUFACTURER
Infants and Girls' Dresses

Commercial Services

AGENTS with good connections required for the sale of [List of products]. For details see General Vacs.

Appointments Vacant also on page 23

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

LECTURER

In Electronic Engineering in the above Department. The post is available from 1 October 1977, or as soon as possible thereafter. The Department has active research groups working in the following relevant areas: [List of areas]

NOTICE

All advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance of Times Newspapers Limited, copies of which are available on request.

GENERAL VACANCIES

BUTLER/VALET for Int. business. [List of details]

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

GUILDFORD SOLICITORS require Assistant Solicitor primarily for litigation. [List of details]

FINANCE & ACCO

ENGLISH LAM TEACHER

Required immediate. [List of details]

I.P.L. SPACHI

L14, 11, 0900

DO YOU HAVE A CAR TO SELL?

ROLLS-ROYCE, 1973 SILVER SHADOW

27,000 miles only. £12,500.

CAR SOLD 1st morning

1976 SEPT, VOLKSWAGEN SCIROCCO, 4,700 miles, extras.

CAR SOLD. Several replies

ROVER 3500, 1970, £700...

5 replies. CAR SOLD

JAGUAR XJ 4.2, £5,400...

CAR SOLD

you have a car to sell

ing Sue Nicholls now on

01-278 9351

and find out more about our

Special Thursday feature on

motor cars.

PRIVATE ADVERTISER 01-337 3311

OR IN THE NORTH 061-334 1234

01-837 3311

If you have a Rolls-Royce to

sell The Times is having a

Rolls-Royce Special on

February 22nd. Find out

more about our Early

Booking discount now.

Commercial Services

AGENTS with good connections required for the sale of [List of products]. For details see General Vacs.

Appointments Vacant also on page 23

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

LECTURER

In Electronic Engineering in the above Department. The post is available from 1 October 1977, or as soon as possible thereafter. The Department has active research groups working in the following relevant areas: [List of areas]

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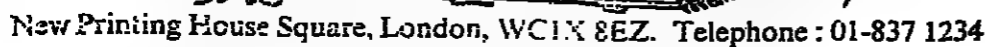
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Rolls-Royce Special on

February 22nd. Find out

more about our Early

Booking discount now.



e could hardly be a better

ing the constitution
Sir Rex Niven
We pride ourselves on having
written constitution and what

important and inspiration, now so lacking, is required. I feel that Mr Steel is near the truth in some of this article today (February 7).

Yours sincerely,
REN NIVEN;
Hope Road,
Deal,
Kent.
February 7.

of whose annual increase the press frequently, and rightly complains. If the media are truly concerned about the whole field of privacy, and not merely that small part which they directly affect, they should combine now to devise an acceptable formula for their own regulation. Once that stumbling block is removed, our politicians would be able to tackle the rest, knowing that the media will support them.

Yours, etc.
PAUL SIGCHART,
c/o Gray's Inn Square, WCL1
January 31.

From the Secretary of The Magistrates' Association

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN D. B. MITCHELL,
University of Edinburgh,
Old College,
South Bridge,
Edinburgh.
February 3.

From Lord Plowden

Career preferences

From Mr Robert M. Worcester
Sir, In today's *Times* (February 9), an article reporting on our survey of final-year male undergraduates' attitudes towards careers gives a

conclusions that "university students see themselves as much more fitted for Civil Service jobs than for industry" or that industry is out of favour with students.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT M. WORCESTER,
Managing Director,
Market & Opinion Research
International, 86 Strand, WC2.

*From the Bishop of Sheffield and
others*

O King of Kings whose reign of old
 Hath been from everlasting . . .
 And make the world a better world
 For man's brief earthly dwelling.
 But the whole rousing tune still
 rings in the brain of at least one
 boy who sang it in a school Chapel
 80 years ago.
 Yours faithfully,
 ALAN H. MAUDE,
 Stone House,
 Perworth,
 West Sussex.

From Mr Tom Boardman
Sir. Many of the damaging conse-

the stench.
Yours faithfully,
TOM JACKSON,
General Secretary,
Union of Post Office Workers,
UPW House,
Crescent Lane,
Clapham, SW4.

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When asked about the careers they were considering on graduation, 24 per cent were firmly intending to work in business and industry, as against 33 per cent firmly intending a career in the Civil Service. A further 33 per cent said that they would consider such a business career (and 30 per cent would consider a career in the Civil Service). Such results do not justify the conclusion that "University students see themselves as and are more fitted for Civil Service jobs than for industry" or that industry is out of favour with students.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT M. WORCESTER.

my Victorian souvenirs for a copy
of it. Of the words, I can recall only
the first two and the last two lines:
O King of Kings whose reign
 of old
Hath been from everlasting . . .
And make the world
 a better world
For man's brief earthly dwelling.
But the whole rousing tune still
rings in the brain of at least one
boy who sang it in a school Chapel
80 years ago.

You're faithfully,
ALAN H. MAUDE,
Stone House,
Perwore, W Sussex.

From Mr Jeremy Thorpe, MP for North Devon (Liberal), and Mr

One does not need to be up to one's neck in a midden to smell the stench.

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TOM JACKSON,
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Union of Post Office Workers,
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From Colonel Alan H. Maude
Sir, The Post Laureate and the

80 years ago.
Yours faithfully,
ALAN H. MAUDE,
Stone House,
Perworth,
West Sussex.

Mr Terence Prittie
is a Tipperary man may I say

faithfully,
NCE C. F. PRITTIE,
lers' Club,
all, SW1.

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 He said, surprised on having

writer, constitution and what

The rule of law did not spread

If the media are truly concerned about the whole field of privacy, they should merely take small steps, which affects them directly, they should combine now to devise an acceptable formula for their own regulation. Once that stumbling block is removed, our politicians would be able to tackle the rest, knowing that the media will support them.

Yours, etc,
PAUL SIEGHART,
5, Gray's Inn Square, WC1.

cance of that law, whether the United Kingdom was in or out, was that the number of honours courses has increased as has postgraduate teaching and the first thesis dates from 1969. Now the Faculty of Law has established the elements of Community law as a compulsory introductory law course which is compulsory for all law students.

Often the theses are criticized for being laggardly, but there are times when they are far ahead of the profession.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN D. B. MITCHELL,
University of Edinburgh,

From Mr Paul Sieghart

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ALAN H. MAUDE,
Stone House,
Peirce Court,
West Sussex.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Ansofone
Let Ansofone answer your phone.
From £1.25 per week
19 Upper Brook St., London W1V 2HS
01-629 9232

S government task force ges full competition r world shipping groups

It concludes: "Conference powers are not effectively constrained by market forces or by regulation as Congress hoped. Indeed, the evidence shows that current regulation may well have promoted, rather than hindered, cartelization of the industry."

Sweeping changes in United States maritime law are urged. A fully competitive environment, the report says, could produce a more efficient industry that could offer lower rates.

It maintains that there is no validity to the argument made by the shipping conferences that a competitive system would produce ruinous competition and monopoly power for a few strong companies.

A competitive system will produce a more balanced overall situation with supply and demand being much closer together than is possible under the conference system, the report continues.

"The present system of regulation has been shown to encourage wasteful service competition and to discourage cost reduction, thereby substantially raising the cost of shipping services."

American shipping experts believe that the Department of Justice is aiming to show that wide abuse of conference regulations has taken place and that this possible result of the grand jury investigation, taken together with the report, will prompt the Administration to make a radical review of maritime legislation and smash the conference system.

It would appear that the British Government fully supports the inquiry and the report has been dispatched to the American officials of the British Department of Trade.

Mr. Donald Flexner, the shipping policy of the British Department of Trade, has been a special task force. Mr. Donald Flexner, the shipping policy of the British Department of Trade, has been a special task force.

Beer: Minister orders price inquiry

By Ronald Emiler

Beer prices are being referred to the Price Commission. Mr. Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said yesterday in a written Commons reply that because of the "high level of public concern" he was asking the Commission to examine "the prices and margins in the manufacture and distribution of beer in the United Kingdom of beer sold by retail for consumption on licensed premises" in order to establish the facts.

Effectively, the reference covers all beer sales except those in supermarkets, grocers and off-licences and some clubs. Mr. Hattersley was at pains to point out, however, that by making the reference he was not prejudging the issue. There was no presumption, he said, that "prices are not justified or that there is evidence of profiteering."

The brewing industry was last night incensed. There was speculation that Mr. Hattersley had written his letter to the Cabinet to make the reference, because there is a need to be seen to be acting on sensitive prices when the unions are less than keen on negotiating a further round of wage restraint.

What really annoyed brewers was that by questioning their prices and profits, Mr. Hattersley was designed to cooperate with the Government's job creation strategy. The Government acknowledges this has to be based on profitability.

Mr. Peter Belfour, chairman of Scottish & Newcastle, which is expected to announce plans soon for a new brewery in south Tyneside, said last night that if as a result of the Commission's report there were to be restrictions on profits or prices which reduced his company's cash flow, it would have to reconsider its investment programme.

Mr. Derrick Holden-Brown, vice-chairman of Allied Breweries, which last month announced a £164m investment programme, said that "pending the outcome of the inquiry" the group had no intention of reviewing its plans. The reference would create a period of uncertainty for the industry, he added.

The Brewers' Society said Mr. Hattersley's reference to the Commission was a "needless, time-wasting exercise" which would call into question the whole of the Government's "so-called industrial strategy". All brewers were convinced that the Commission's report would vindicate them.

It added that the industry's profits were below the levels of five years ago, and that after inflation has been taken into account the return on capital was less than the average for British industry as a whole. Last year, the society said, brewers' profit margins were the lowest for five years.

The industry was seeking to invest an average of £300m a year in each of the next three years, the society added.

Brewers were thoroughly tired of being subject to official inquiries, it said. In the past decade the Prices and Incomes Board, the Monopolies Commission, the Excess Profits Committee and the Blennerhassett committee had all examined various aspects of the industry. At present the Price Commission was investigating prices of soft drink "mixers" sold in public houses.

Mr. Hattersley has asked the Commission to report by July 31 the date on which the legislation under which the Commission is constituted expires.

He is also expected to make other references to the Commission during the next couple of weeks for examination during the same period, one of which will concern paint prices.

Ombudsman gives 'fit and proper' verdict

The 120-man team at the Department of Trade's insurance division has a delicate task administering the widening powers of supervision provided for under the Insurance Companies Act. It has to protect the public from the unscrupulous, while at the same time observing the rights of individuals. The problem of reconciling these two aspects of its powers are recognized in the Parliamentary Commissioner's annual report for 1976.

Sir Idwal Pugh, the Ombudsman, carried out three investigations of complaints about the exercise of the DoT's powers under the insurance companies legislation last year. In two cases, that of Nation Life Insurance and of a small mutual insurance association, Sir Idwal concluded that the Department had acted properly.

The DoT is, however, criticized for its "unsatisfactory" handling of the third case, that of Castle Life Assurance, Castle, incorporated in 1971 and authorized to trade as a life office in September 1973, became the first company ordered to stop taking new business under sections of the Insurance Companies Act restricting groups, whose controller had been judged by the DoT not to be a "fit and proper" person.

Castle's architect, an actuary and for long a respected figure in the insurance industry, complained that the Department's action in declaring him to be "not a fit and proper person" was "unjustified and excessive". Although Sir Idwal rejects further complaints that a Department official showed personal prejudice against the actuary, and that the DoT deliberated on his case as a "vendetta", he does criticize certain aspects of the DoT's treatment of the affair.

The Commissioner recognized that the case has already been reviewed. But he feels that "the recommendations made by the actuary were not fully satisfactory. Not only was the same advice which I have criticized... given by the same officials... but it was accompanied by subjective judgments backed by no convincing evidence."

Accordingly, Sir Idwal has called for a further full ministerial review of the case.

Control of Castle, renamed Igals in December 1974, has since passed to Mr. Joseph Kaplan who, coincidentally, taking his fight against a DoT judgment that he is not a "fit and proper person" to the European Commission of Human Rights this March. Mr. Kaplan, who has described the DoT's behaviour in his case as a "vendetta", has focused criticism on the Department's powers, criticism echoed by Sir Keith Joseph who has said that "where such arbitrary power is given there is a special need to use it in a totally defensible way."

In his report Sir Idwal quotes the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Trade in 1973 saying: "I hope I have shown that applications are never treated lightly or capriciously, but rather with the seriousness which is appropriate."

A measure of this seriousness is shown by the fact that the DoT, which received 1,700 applications for authorization last year, has referred less than 100 cases for full investigation since 1967. In this group 52 applicants were eventually accepted; 26 withdrew; 12 were refused authorization and in only nine cases covering just six companies was authorization revoked.

John Brennan

Land stewards plan mass pay nonstration for Varley visit

Mr. Varley: Hot reception promised for him.

Varley. Shop stewards have promised "a hot reception". One of them said: "The lads feel very strongly about this issue and they are not going to be fobbed off with a paper visit."

"Will there be trouble?" "Things may get a little hectic but there will be no real trouble."

Officially the occasion is the first factory visit by the tripartite committee of government officials, motor chiefs and union leaders which was set up by Mr. Varley to improve productivity.

About 600 managers and shop stewards will assemble in the Longbridge exhibition hall to hear a pep talk by Mr. Varley. Afterwards there will be an open discussion involving Mr. Alex Park, British Leyland's chief executive, and Mr. Derek Whitaker, managing director of Leyland Cars.

The meeting is being organized by Leyland Cars' joint management council—the highest level of the three-tier participation machinery.

But in an attempt to involve all sections of the workforce the council has also invited about 100 shop stewards from factories who have opted out of participation. These include Rover (Solihull), Triumph and Jaguar (Coventry).

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Mergers in power sector opposed

By R. W. Shakespeare

Engineering union leaders have told the Government that they will firmly oppose any mergers or take overs in the power engineering sector. Mr. Hattersley said yesterday that the Government was aware of the opposition and that it was not planning to force any mergers.

The union leaders said that the power sector was a natural monopoly and that any mergers would lead to a loss of jobs and a loss of the public interest.

They also said that the power sector was a key part of the national infrastructure and that any mergers would be a threat to the security of the country.

Safety net withheld if reserves top \$6,750m

By David Blake

Britain will be able to draw on the "safety net" arranged to deal with the sterling balances only if its reserves are less than \$6,750m, Mr. Healey stated yesterday.

Giving details of the Basle scheme which came into action last Tuesday, the Chancellor said in a written parliamentary reply that the United Kingdom would be able to draw on the \$3,800m fund set up by central bank governors whenever the level of official holdings of sterling balances fell below £2,165m which was the figure at which they stood on December 3, 1976.

But the limit on the level of reserves which emerged during the governors' meeting on Monday, would almost certainly mean that the United Kingdom would not be able to draw on the facility at present. At the end of January the reserves stood at \$7,195m.

The terms of the Basle agreement do, however, provide for Britain to make borrowings even when its reserves are above the \$6,750m in certain circumstances, notably when the reserve level has been boosted by public sector foreign currency borrowing.

The limit is more of a protection for the countries which have put up the money to help Britain than a real threat to the workability of the "safety net" scheme if it were tested.

Any rundown of sterling balances would almost certainly result in Britain's reserves being lowered to a level which would allow a drawing from the fund. The agreement also specifies that after the first year of the scheme, only 75 per cent of the rundown in sterling balances would be made by drawings from the "safety net" fund. The right to make a drawing can be rolled over from one month to another.

Drawings will be made in United States dollars, will bear interest at market-related rates, and will be made public as the case of monthly reserve figures. Any sales of foreign currency bonds will be deducted from the £2,165m figure in deciding whether Britain can draw on the fund. So the actual trigger point is likely to be somewhat lower than the figure of \$6,750m.

Details of these bonds will be announced later; but it now seems likely that they will be issued at a fixed rate of interest rather than a variable one, as some people had expected.

Colgate to buy Terry's All Gold

By Our Financial Staff

Trust Houses Forte plans to sell its chocolate manufacturing business, Joseph Terry & Sons, to the American Colgate Palmolive group for about £17.5m in cash.

Based at York, Terry, whose leading brand is All Gold, was acquired by Forte in 1963, and is still the only manufacturing company within the THF group.

Last year, against a poor trading background for chocolate makers because of the hot weather, Terry earned profits of £2m, on sales of £22m.

For Colgate Palmolive, which is described as "one of the world's leading producers and distributors of products intended for personal care, laundry and cleaning, sports and leisure activities and health care", this appears to be the first venture into confectionery manufacturing since it will maintain Terry as a self-contained unit.

The importance of this deal for THF has to be seen in the context of its agreement to buy the substantial J. Lyons hotel interests for £27.5m on deferred payment terms, details of which are expected to be disclosed next week.

Clearly, THF's decision to part with Terry is bound up with its need to fund the Lyons hotel purchase scheme.

Engineering union leaders resigned to year without national pay deal

Northern Industrial

Leaders representing 2,500,000 engineering workers appear to be resigned to the fact that for the third year they are unlikely to be able to negotiate a national agreement on pay and conditions.

At the annual conference of the Engineering Employers' Association on behalf of its 19 unions, the leaders said that they would expect to get out of their annual conference a submission to the Government on behalf of the industry.

Employers' representatives would expect to get out of their annual conference a submission to the Government on behalf of the industry.

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Mr Carter adds weight to trade expansion demand

By Our Economics Correspondent

The Carter Administration yesterday called for closer collaboration between industrial countries and coupled it with criticism of the unwillingness of Germany and Japan to refit their economies.

In one of the first statements spelling out the Administration's attitude to international economic problems, the United States Information Service released yesterday an article attributed to an "Administration official" which is believed to represent top-level thinking in Washington about the whole range of these problems.

In it, the Administration claims that the United States is doing its part to bring the world out of recession by its acceptance of the \$6,000m (£3,410m) current account deficit and a willingness to go on accepting a deficit for some time.

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Selby contract

The National Coal Board has awarded a contract for the sinking of the first pair of shafts in the Selby coalfield development to Cementation Mining, part of the Trafalgar House group. No figure has been disclosed.

on members at bank nationalization

Stephen Thomas

Members of a big white union yesterday firmly rejected the proposals of the Party's national executive nationalizing insurance companies. They issued a statement that a state takeover of the country's insurance companies would be a disaster.

The decision came at a one-day conference in the City of London. The conference was held on the initiative of the Association of Technical and Staffs (ASTMS), despite the opposition of the National Union of Bankers and the National Union of Insurance Brokers.

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How the markets moved

The Times index: 163.65 +0.17
The FT index: 389.7 +1.8

THE POUND		Bank	
Australia \$	1.63	Bank	1.53
Austria Sch	30.75	Bank	28.75
Belgium Fr	65.75	Bank	62.75
Canada \$	1.80	Bank	1.75
Denmark Kr	10.52	Bank	10.12
Finland Mk	6.75	Bank	6.50
France F	8.44	Bank	8.14
Germany Dm	4.30	Bank	4.08
Greece Dr	70.50	Bank	67.00
Hong Kong \$	7.25	Bank	7.00
Italy L	150.00	Bank	145.00
Japan Yen	315.00	Bank	300.00
Netherlands Gld	4.50	Bank	4.28
Norway Kr	9.35	Bank	9.00
Portugal Esc	58.00	Bank	54.50
S. Africa Rd	2.20	Bank	2.08
Spain Pes	121.75	Bank	113.75
Sweden Kr	7.40	Bank	7.20
Switzerland Fr	4.49	Bank	4.27
US \$	1.76	Bank	1.71
Yugoslavia Dn	33.55	Bank	32.75

Gold sold \$1 an ounce to close at \$135.625.
S.A. 5.553 on Thursday.
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On other pages

Business appointments	20	Diary	19
Appointments vacant	23, 24	Market reports	20, 21
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Financial news	20, 21	Share prices	22
Letters	18	Bank Base Rates Table	21

Arthur Lee & Sons Ltd.

Producers and Stockists of Bright Bars, Cold Rolled Strip, Wire and Wire Rope in Carbon and Stainless Steels.

RESULTS: Year ended 30th September

	1976	1975
Turnover	46,967,000	42,243,000
Group Profit before Taxation	1,998,779	1,385,205
Group Profit after Taxation and Minority Interests	483,592	353,364
Earnings per 12 1/2p Share	2.43p	1.68p
Dividend per 12 1/2p Share	1.35p	1.15p

POINTS FROM THE STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN, Mr. H. P. FORDER

Pre-tax profit for the Group of £1,998,779 compares with £1,385,205 for the year 1975/6 an overall improvement reflecting varying fortunes in the different sections of our activities.

In the light of these figures and the currently somewhat better outlook for trading than was the case a year ago, an uplift in the dividend for the year from 1.15p to 1.35p per share is recommended.

The new year has on the whole started encouragingly and we are hopeful that the investments we have made in various parts of our Group in the past few years will assist us to set a new pattern of opportunities to be presented by either a modest or a more steeply rising trade trend. A recent report from the National Economic Development Council invited our attention to the increasing pressures of demand which are likely to develop progressively over the next 18 months. Whilst regarding this forecast with a due amount of caution we believe we are steadily improving our ability to react reasonably to it if it comes. With this in mind we shall indeed be disappointed if we do not achieve a noticeable improvement over the profit forecast for the past two years.

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, P.O. Box 54, Sheffield S9 1HU.

Financial Editor, page 19

Electrical contracting angry over Government refusal to exempt it from statutory rules

Employer-union fight to keep disputes pact

By Maurice Corina

A refusal by the Government to allow a joint industrial agreement on unfair dismissals to be exempted from statutory employment protection machinery has brought fierce protests from both unions and employers in the electrical contracting industry.

Acting together, the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union and the Electrical Contractors' Association yesterday denounced the action "in the strongest fashion".

The employers and the union made their application, the first of its kind, as long ago as December, 1974, to exclude what they regard as a model disputes agreement from the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974.

Feelings are running high and a deputa- tion went to the Department of Employment on Wednesday to reinforce their case at ministerial level.

Eight years ago the electrical contracting industry brought years of trouble to an end by establishing a

Joint Industry Board for handling disputes, discipline, and inquiries in a rapid way, with disputes committees operating at local level and the national board handling problems with great flexibility.

The industry went to the Government with the argument that it felt its procedure was superior to that conducted through industrial tribunals and that it had produced excellent industrial relations after a most troubled history.

The problem is that the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974, gives employees a statutory right to bypass that Joint Industry Board's procedures because of the availability of industrial tribunals and official arbitration and conciliation machinery, enhanced by the Employment Protection Act.

Because it feels that employees, unions and employers who at present reach amicable solutions will be forced "into antagonism across the floor of a court of law", the industry board wants

exemption under Section 30 of the 1974 Act. This allows the Government to make orders of exemption if satisfied that certain conditions are met.

Yesterday's statement complained that the Government's response had been to raise a great number of technical and drafting points on the industry's application for exemption.

The nub of the rejection, according to the industry, was contained in a letter stating the application "cast doubt on the original thinking behind the exclusion provision".

Employers and the union complain that while pursuing its claim for exemption, the joint board had at no time met with or corresponded with any member of Government. It had now gone to the Department of Employment to ensure ministers saw there were sound reasons for the application of a unique disputes procedure.

Protesting that Parliament would not have included an exemption provision if it was not intended that it would

be applied to suitable cases, the industry board states: "The Secretary of State cannot decide that a part of the law is, in his view, a mental aberration by Parliament and decide that he will not, therefore, operate that part of the law."

At the same time an application which in a small way limited the burden upon the Arbitration, Conciliation and Advisory Service and industrial tribunals ought to be given every encouragement instead of every discouragement, the board added. The avowed aim of the Trade Union Act was for industries to develop first class procedures for avoiding disputes.

Nine years of operating the electrical contracting disputes agreement had led to a high degree of expertise and acceptability, and it was a cornerstone of the industry's excellent relations that disputes were dealt with through the insistence on all sides that labour difficulties were handled by the industry board.

Japan could raise ship prices 10pc in package deal with EEC

By Peter Hill

Export prices of Japanese-built ships are expected to rise by between 5 and 10 per cent over the next few weeks as a result of Japan's pledge to assist the beleaguered European shipbuilding industry by enabling it to obtain a larger share of world orders.

This was the estimate made by Japanese government officials yesterday in Paris after a three-day meeting of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's working group on shipbuilding where European governments grudgingly accepted Japan's proposals.

European governments had been pressing for a 50-50 sharing of world orders for new ships—which the Japanese rejected totally—and the Europeans agreed to the Japanese package with some reservations.

The offer to increase export prices for a two-year period lasting until the end of next

year forms the most important element of the package, which will be implemented shortly, although officials yesterday stressed that the eventual size of the increase would be decided in negotiation with Japanese shipbuilders.

Officials at the OECD conference indicated however that further price increases may be introduced if the initial increase proved to be insufficient to produce the hoped for diversion of orders from Japan to European yards.

The other elements of the Japanese package involve an offer to restrict ship sales to those European countries whose shipbuilding industries faced special difficulties and, if necessary, to introduce further reductions in working hours at shipyards in Japan if its share of world production rose above 50 per cent.

Mr Albert Gruebel, chairman of the working party, said after the final session that the

Japanese offer contained some very positive points and there had been agreement to proceed with discussions for as long as the crisis continued. He stressed, however, that the two sides still remained far apart on the possibility of sharing production, with the EEC demand for a 50-50 share still before the committee.

The committee failed to produce a joint statement on the latest session, which had been expected, and instead the OECD secretariat was asked to draft an interim progress report for further expert study.

The report is expected to stress the need for new machinery designed to detect imbalances, restore normal conditions of competition and accelerate the structural adaptation of the shipbuilding industries of OECD member countries. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled to take place at the end of next month.

Ryder attack on CBI for 'denigrating' NEB

By Malcolm Brown

Lord Ryder, chairman of the National Enterprise Board, yesterday criticized the Confederation of British Industry for denigrating the board.

"Not to put too fine a point on it, it is not very helpful to us to read in the CBI's published report, *The Road to Recovery*, that the NEB's 'interventionist powers could actively damage industry and must be repealed'," Lord Ryder said.

The board had absolutely no compulsory powers, Lord Ryder said, while delivering the Stockton lecture at the London Business School.

"It has the power to purchase shares but only if it can persuade shareholders to sell. It has to act in accordance with the City Takeover Code, the requirements of the Stock Exchange and in consultation with the Office of Fair Trading. In this respect, therefore,

it is in exactly the same position as any company in the private sector."

The authors of the report, he said, should have found time to talk to the NEB and discuss more about what it was trying to do.

Turning to the Bullock report on industrial democracy, Lord Ryder implied that he could not be counted on to support the majority recommendations.

"Without getting into the debate on Bullock, one thing is clear: if the new arrangements can only be as effective as those who participate with them to be, if the arrangements are such that most managers regard them as a hostile imposition, they simply will not work."

"Similarly if the arrangements appear to employees to pay only lip-service to the concept of industrial democracy, nothing will have been achieved."

DM175m state aid for ailing German bank

From Peter Norman

Bonn, Feb 10

The West German federal government has had to step in with DM175m (about £42.4m) of aid for the Deutsche Bau und Boden Bank AG, a bank specializing in housing finance in which Bonn has a stake of around 67 per cent.

A spokesman for the bank said today in Frankfurt that the cash was paid towards the end of last year, and took the form of a loan.

Thanks to this "extraordinary item" the bank will end its 1976 profit and loss account in balance with capital and reserves remaining intact.

The federal payment was needed to cover risks that had arisen in connection with the bank's financing of apartment building.

Unlike most German banks, which are "universal" in character, the Bau und Boden Bank is limited by law in its activities to housing finance.

Strikes halt output of seven Leyland models

Work on seven Leyland models was at a standstill yesterday because of two strikes which have caused lay offs for about 11,000 workers.

Latest victim yesterday was the Maxi model at Cowley, where 400 assembly men were sent home. Another 500 were hit at Longbridge, Birmingham, where 2,500 are now idle.

The strikes are at the Castle Bromwich body plant and the Triumph factory in Coventry. Production losses are mounting at a daily rate of more than 1,200 cars, worth more than £5m at showroom prices.

Cowley threat: More than 700 toolmakers at two Leyland plants in Oxford, the car body plant at Cowley and a component plant in North Oxford, have voted to begin a strike on February 18.

This was recommended by the Leyland tool room committee which represents 6,000 tool room workers seeking separate negotiations.

Massey dispute reappraisal to be made at joint meeting

By Clifford Webb

A possible breakthrough in the strike which has closed Massey Ferguson's Coventry tractor plant for eight weeks could emerge on Monday from a meeting between union leaders and management.

The routine meeting of the company's national joint negotiating council has been arranged for some time. But, because of the losses of more than £50m caused by the strike, both sides have agreed to review their positions.

However, union officials were agreed yesterday that without some concession from the company, the chances of a return to work were slim. The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has declared the stoppage official and is giving its full backing to the 1,000 men who walked out on December 22.

The other big union involved, the Transport and General Workers' Union, has instructed its members not to cross picket lines. Mr Moss Evans, the

union's national organizer, is also chairman of the joint negotiating council.

He has insisted that Massey management is guilty of a flagrant breach of the agreed dispute procedure in that it took men off the clock for alleged poor performance without exhausting the dispute procedure.

Yesterday Massey Ferguson and Perkins Engines, both United Kingdom members of the Canadian-owned Massey group, announced record exports and investment during 1976.

Exports of Massey farm machinery, industrial and construction equipment, and Perkins diesel engines reached £337m, an increase of 40 per cent over 1975. Investment totalled £23m, of which £14m was spent at Massey, and £10m at Perkins.

Japanese contract: Toyo Kogyo, a Japanese car maker, said it will supply 2,000 diesel engines a year over four years to Perkins Engines group.

Warning on legislating for Bullock

The Government would find that it had a tiger by the tail if it tried to force through legislation on industrial democracy based on their majority Bullock report, Mr John Methven, director general of the Confederation of British Industry said in London last night.

Participation and involvement must begin at the grass roots, Mr Methven said. Addressing a meeting of the Institute of Public Relations he said people must be involved in decisions affecting their working environment.

The majority report attempted to impose a rigid, inflexible system of board level trade union representation on companies, regardless of whether it disenfranchised non-unionists, and resorted to existing arrangements.

"The majority report is more about power politics than improving employee involvement," Mr Methven said. He is to head a CBI team to see the Prime Minister on Tuesday to discuss the report.

The CBI would be asking the Prime Minister to avoid rigid legislation, Mr Methven said. Instead the CBI wanted to see a move towards its own proposals for participation agreements in companies employing over 2,000, backed up by legislation for a four-year time limit, after which an arbitrated agreement could be reached.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Anomaly in armed forces' pensions

From Mr Alfred J. Culler

Sir, I read with interest the article by Sir Eric Sachs on "Why the armed forces are losing the bureaucratic battle over indexed pensions" (January 21). I agree with and fully support the points Sir Eric made, but as he dealt mainly with officers' pensions, may I point out the anomalies that also exist in the pensions of retired long-service NCOs of the Army and Royal Air Force, and senior ratings of the Royal Navy.

I retired from the Royal Navy in 1952 as a master-at-arms (Chief Pattern Officer) after 24 years' service. My pension (before tax) is £636.43 per year, whilst a senior rating who retires now, receives £1,376 per year.

Sir Eric suggests, and I agree with him, that the "parity link" is the fairest method of assessing pensions, this would give those who retired in the 1950s and 50s the same pension as those that retire at present in the same rank. This would dispose of the 1971 Act and retail prices index link, as pensions would then keep pace with those awarded each year.

I do not oppose the pensions awarded to the present-day members of the armed forces. Indeed, I think these are still inadequate, but I would like to repair a phrase of the present Government, equal opportunities for all. I hope the facts presented by Sir Eric have some effect, but I am pessimistic, as for many years we have pressed successive governments to change the system, without suc-

cess. The same Treasury that pours millions into ailing and inefficient industries has always stated the cost would be too high.

ALFRED J. CUTLER,
10 Lamerton Close,
West Park,
Plymouth PL5 3RU,
Devon.
February 7.

From Mr H. F. T. Allaway

Sir, It is a sad reflection on the efficacy of the news media that they have still not got through to Mr Robert Hargreaves (February 2).

1. That the proposition put originally to the Government was indeed a link with pay; but that, since at the time earnings were rising faster than prices, the Government insisted on the then cheaper alternative of a link with the prices index.

2. That, until this year, each year's increase in public service pensions has been less than that in earnings, and thus has cost the taxpayer less than would have a link with earnings.

3. That to change the basis now, now that for the first year the public pension increase is greater than the increase in earnings, would keep the pensions lagging behind both earnings and prices.

There was no public outcry when the present pension link was introduced; there will be no outcry when earnings again rise faster than prices. To campaign for a change now is

simply to cry "He rails I win".
Yours faithfully,
H. F. T. ALLAWAY,
7 Steine Gardens,
Brighton, Sussex.

From Mr P. G. Nu

Sir, I am afraid I am Mr Robert (February 2), mis- point at issue on of index linking public servants.

The problem is index wages or provide the mo treatment of public sector pensioners guaranteed index be defended where sions are provided which is unfunder main part non

The important therefore, is th scheme is free fro ial and accountancy; which control the funded schemes them from emeri comparable commi

Finally, it is remember, in all very created by that criticism of not be levelled sector schemes, the nationalized fully funded and ject to all discipl upon private sect

Yours faithfully,
G. NUNN,
2 Sheridan Place,
Roxborough Park,
Harrow, Middlesex.

Construction industry in need of a united voice

From Mr Sydney Chapman

Sir, The letter from Sir Hugh Wilson and presidents of the main professional institutes concerned with the built environment (January 31), expressing profound anxiety about the effects on the construction industry of the recent cuts in public sector capital spending, is welcome if somewhat overdue.

But to those of us who normally work directly in, or indirectly for, the construction industry (2,250,000 representing nearly 10 per cent of the total United Kingdom working population) surely the most significant fact in the letter was the passage which pointed out that the industry and its professions "are fragmented and cannot adopt a militant stance against the loss of jobs."

Why not? I suggest there are two reasons why the world of construction does not have the influence it should in the corridors of power. The first is the geographical distribution of its workforce—spread evenly around the country. There are no "construction" seats as there are agricultural, mining or car manufacturing constituencies waiting to be swung at the drop of an electoral promise or threat.

Sir Hugh and the rest of us can do little about this and a political consequence of our impotence is that government is prepared to pour hundreds of millions of pounds into Chrysler's to prevent the risk of 20,000 being made redundant, but is not minded to raise a finger to help more than ten times that number of construction workers who are already unemployed.

The second reason is our inability to speak with one clear voice. Our influence upon Whitehall and Westminster

is thus significantly diminished. If you doubt this, then compare the political pressure that the 300,000 farmers can bring to bear upon our legislators—even though the annual value of their output is only half that of construction (currently £13,000m in spite of being in the midst of its worst recession since the war).

Of course, this analogy is too simple but the parallel is made to underline the fact that the hill farmer from Cumbria and the crop-sprayer in Cambridgeshire seem able to join together under the umbrella of the NFU in a way which seems impossible for the architect, builder and concrete. I will only add, as a former MP, that the anti-vivisection league has more overt influence on the House of Commons than the huge construction industry.

Lobbying may be distasteful to the construction industry professionals but it is a political fact of life. The presidents of the Committee for Urban Environment could do no better than use their considerable standing and influence within their own institutes to bring them together and encourage other parts of the greatest industry in the country to unite into a confederation of construction and building (or some such other designation).

Only in this way will they attain influence on government.

Until they can do this, they may continue to waver eloquently after the recession has bitten deep into the industry, but they will never actually stop government in future from using construction as the easy regulator of the stop-go economic cycle.

Yours faithfully,
SYDNEY CHAPMAN,
31-33 Gloucester Terrace,
London W2 6DX.
January 31.

Foundry can be enjoyable

From Mr H. Willis

Sir, I have read a letter about Iro (February 1) with prize. Having spent summer school being in an iron foundry I can only say it was not all.

Of course, the and dirty, but not many other jobs. avoided the worst men's hair wave on an early shift.

Many of the it occurs as the fact would not allow be run in this c from needing a d tained glasses obtained imme request. During months I was I suffered any bur tolog and I fo protective cloth was both com effective.

Of course, the noisy, but not as disconcerting, and fact turned to employing deaf could not find jobs.

I enjoyed the much and deep outside, made friends. The big and also tough a work selects a v bunch of people v is a pleasure to w

I am sure that of modern foundry work just Vulcan in his smit

Yours faithfully,
H. W. BAUER,
Rapon School,
Derbyshire.
February 6.

Factors in the pricing of gas and electricity

From Mr Bryan C. Smith

Sir, I doubt if Mr Worham (January 31) would find many gas customers on his side in his plea for parity pricing with electricity, particularly those who have chosen gas for heat-

ing processes. With natural gas hardly any of the energy content is lost on the way from the North Sea to the consumer, whereas with electricity some 65 per cent of the oil or coal used is dissipated in generation and distribution.

Even allowing for the greater utilization efficiency of most electrical appliances, gas remains overwhelmingly the more efficient overall. It is right that this fact should be reflected in the price since it

leads the consumer choice which is a right one in energy terms.

In addition, the place of imported mated before the I-crease to be saving some £2,350m a y balance of payment.

BRYAN C. SMITH,
Member for Market British Gas Corpora 326 High Holborn, London WC1V 7PT.

Union calls for world boycott of Seagram goods

Geneva, Feb 10.—The International Union of Food and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF) said yesterday it had asked its 2.2 million members to boycott all products of Seagram Distillers because of an unresolved lockout dispute at its British Columbia plant.

An IUF congress here endorsed a union boycott of Seagram products already in force for several months in Canada and the United States and agreed to extend it worldwide.

A resolution adopted by the congress, held last month, accused Seagram of illegally locking out employees at its British Columbia plant on February 26, 1975; and of failing to comply with orders by the British Columbia Labour Relations Board to reemploy them.

The resolution also said Seagram refused to negotiate in good faith.

The IUF said Seagram was continuing to send shipments of its products to markets previously served by the British Columbia plant.—Reuters.

Cecil E. Watts

Tepea BV (formerly Theal BV), the Dutch distributor of Cecil E. Watts, a British manufacturer of record cleaning appliances, was fined 15,000 units of account by the European Commission late last year, and not 5,000 as was stated in a news agency report published in Business News on December 23.

The fine was for enforcing absolute territorial protection and for supplying false information to the Commission when notifying it of their distribution agreement. There was no finding by the Commission that Watts—which was fined 10,000 units of account, or £4,166, gave, or were in any way concerned in, the supplying of false information.

INTERIM

Dalgety

Unaudited Results for the Half Year Ended 31st December 1976

The Group has succeeded in marginally improving its first half-year's profits compared with the corresponding period in 1975/6.

These results would have been substantially better except for three factors. Firstly, the adverse effect on our making operations of reduced demand from the distillers and the high barley prices resulting from the almost unprecedented drought and poor harvest in the U.K.; secondly, the lengthy and

expensive strike in the Californian frozen food industry which closed our plants for several weeks; and thirdly, the continuation of difficult trading conditions in Australia, which, however, are now showing signs of slow improvement.

The Group's better profit performance in New Zealand and Canada is expected to continue.

R. A. Withers—Chairman.

	Half year to 31.12.76 £ million	Half year to 31.12.75 £ million	Year to 30.6.76 £ million
Profits before taxation			
Australia	1.0	1.0	1.2
New Zealand	2.2	1.2	5.3
United Kingdom	4.2	5.1	7.4
Canada	2.2	0.6	2.5
United States of America	(0.8)	0.6	0.7
Central Income and Expenses	(0.2)	(0.3)	(0.5)
Interest on Eurocurrency Loans	(0.5)	(0.4)	(1.0)
Group profit before tax	8.1	7.8	15.6
Group profit after tax	3.3	4.2	7.3
Ordinary shareholders funds	108.7	102.3	110.2
Loan capital	68.1	64.8	70.8
Short term borrowings	77.5	66.4	59.4
Earnings per £1 ordinary share	10.8p	15.0p	26.1p
Dividend per £1 ordinary share	5.2393%	4.763%	8.94245%

Note: The decline in Group profits after tax is due to a higher than normal tax charge resulting from the Group's inability to offset losses in the USA against profits in other countries.

Copies of the full Interim Report are available from The Secretary, Dalgety Limited, 70 Upper Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 3PA. Telephone number 01-499 7712.

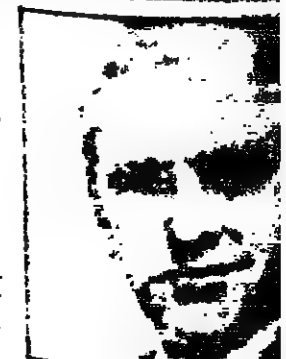
White Child & Beney Limited

To our shareholders:

- ★ Keep WCB free
- ★ Do not be pressured into a hasty decision
- ★ Reject the inadequate price offered by Guinness

The Directors of White Child & Beney have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the financial statements and the opinions expressed here are fair and accurate. They jointly severally accept responsibility accordingly.

Business Diary: C



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Second thoughts on Morpeth

It was wrong at this stage to off the Morpeth inflation proposals as a fact. The six months for discussion following publication of the exposure, only half way through steering group has so far not more than a few written submissions, it should not be for either that before the was produced extensive than was held with 120 is and from the steering thought its end point presented a fair balance views.

At the same time it is not there is a powerful well of opposition both within the accountancy and from perhaps it matters most the directors in industry could have to implement new system of pre-accounts. The purpose exposure draft is, of precisely to sound out views of interested parties in the light of the opinions emerging to emerge it improbable that the draft can go through very extensive modification, the objections in different ways but common strands are apparent. One is that proposed time scale for full inflation is too rapid. Some like longer to discuss it, others would like to see it in by stages. Others say it is wrong to introduce new system first for companies and then for

objections are not, perfect a fundamental nature, there is no shortage of these. The common feature that the Morpeth proposals are seen as too wide, attempting to embrace areas, often of detail instead of sticking to where it is possible to make a fair measure of agreement. A particular source of concern is the degree of subjectivity involved in the Morpeth appropriation account. Some finance directors using even more basic—such as whether there is any inflation-proof balance sheets or not it should be restricted profits and loss accounts. It is a further, and apparent, growing school of thought that wants to stick to cost accounts, the if current cost accounting being shown in flying all of this would be a growing concern he complexity and complexity of the exposure is such views were really in strength, it could not of the assumptions the Morpeth proposal into the melting pot.

Qualcast stinging in industries

ies account for slightly in half of Birmid Qualcast employed but in weeks to last October 9 per cent of the profit (interest) on 60 per cent sales.

being the Aunt Sally industry—too much, too little investment—riving foundries have coming through a recent increased profits.

ine have been improving at Birmid's foundries in 9.2 per cent the pre-tax to 9.4 per cent—and government encourage and a £40m assistance.

a Birmid's plans for of foundry investment, ten years, which started this ago, the bulk of is still to be spent. Pm will come from the ment, but that will not



Mr Rupert Withers, chairman of Dalgety: US losses hit net profits.

even pay for the essential environmental improvements. The group's iron foundries account for a third of the automotive castings in the United Kingdom and that in turn is a third of the total, while its light alloy foundries are 15 per cent of the total.

The exposure is high but so are the potential rewards. Less than one quarter of castings go to British Leyland, which is giving a much clearer indication of its future requirements than in the past, while castings or cars have been cut back from 40 per cent to a third of output.

An increase in industrial production will pay off the investment handsomely. Meanwhile, the problem for Birmid is that after two reorganizations the Potterton Radiator business bought for £5.75m in 1973 is still not making money and that the lawnmower division needs a wetting.

Profit after 65 weeks at £14.6m (against £10.9m for the previous 52 weeks) shows no significant growth in the last 13 weeks, so although funding of the capital investment is no problem it could be a long haul before it pays off.

Final 1975-76 (1974-75) Capitalization — (£44.2m) Sales £211.9m (£159.9m) Pre-tax profits £14.6m (£10.9m) Earnings per share 11p (8.1p) Dividend gross 7.67p (5.53p) * 65 weeks

Gilts

'Shorts' lead the advance

The Treasury Bill market may now be behaving more in line with Bank of England objectives—it looks as if tomorrow's Treasury Bill tender will probably be consistent with a 12 per cent MLR—but the steady advance at the short-end of the gilt market is clearly reflecting continuing confidence that short-term rates are likely to be allowed to fall further before too long.

That said, the short-end of the gilt market is also receiving a helping hand from the current technical situation. Two stocks—Treasury 6½ per cent 1977 and Electricity 3 per cent 1974-77—fall due for redemption in early March and the general assumption is that the authorities are steadily "buying in".

On the one hand, then, there is the feeling that the authorities are actual or potential buyers. On the other, there is the realization that the redemption of these two stocks will considerably reduce the supply of low coupon—high taxpayer—stock in the market. Hence the fact that it has been very much a case of the low coupon

stocks leading the advance: a number of the higher coupon stocks have still failed to regain their peaks of a year ago.

Sketchley/Johnson

Logical but...

The logic of Sketchley's bid for Johnson Group Cleaners is not hard to find. As Sketchley says, the two companies' dry cleaning businesses do not overlap geographically, and a merger will not involve significant closures. Equally, there is no danger of a national monopoly being formed, since although the combined groups would have unrivalled national coverage, they would still account for less than a quarter of the very fragmented market.

However, the stock market seems unimpressed by logic at this stage sensing that this is only the first shot in a protracted bid battle. At 48p, up 18p yesterday, Johnson's shares have moved 41p ahead of Sketchley's bid. Unimpressed by an historic exit p/e ratio of just under nine and an offer that is pitched 24½ below its net asset value Johnson's board is advising rejection. At this stage shareholders should take that advice.

Dalgety A mixed picture

With pre-tax profits at £8.1m, some £2m below upper market estimates, Dalgety's shares started the day badly before ending up all square at 250p, where the prospective yield is 6.1 per cent.

But if profits were not inspiring, attributable profits (down from £9.9m to £2.8m) were even more so, following unoffsettable losses in the United States which helped lift the tax rate from 46 per cent to 59 per cent. Something which should improve the second half.

Imported steel in the United States has proved difficult to move in the sluggish economic climate while the grain trade suffered a reaction after a good start to high prices. But the real damage was done by a month-long strike in the Californian frozen food industry, which closed the group's plant in part of September and October. The United States operations lost £800,000 against a profit of £600,000, on sales up from £41.2m to £44.7m.

However, elsewhere in northern America, Dalgety's Canadian lumber interests rode high on the increased United States housing starts (the most important indicator) with the region contributing profits of £2.2m compared with £600,000.

Australasia was a mixed bag with New Zealand continuing its substantial recovery, but Australia remained difficult, with beef exports falling.

The major trading area, the United Kingdom, was also mixed—profits down from £5.1m to £4.2m—as deflationary pressures squeezed cash by the increased excise duty, cut back demand and barley prices soared because of the drought.

However, the second half should be better—with pre-tax profits for the full year at up to £17.1m. The Californian strike is over and there should be considerable scope for restocking while imported steel should be easier to move once the United States economy really starts moving. The benefits of the Australian devaluation should also start making an impact.

Interim 1976-77 (1975-76) Capitalization £62.4m Sales £376m (£290m) Pre-tax profits £8.1m (£7.8m) Dividend gross 8.06p (7.33p)

Industrial strategy 4: domestic electrical appliances

One step back from disaster

On the basis that one does not kick a man when he is down, Denis Healey was most ungenerously when he introduced the 25 per cent luxury rate of value added tax on domestic electrical appliances in May, 1975.

The industry was already suffering from the effects of increased imports and diminishing home market demand. As a result, throughout 1975 and during the early part of last year demand was severely depressed. The industry had a serious surplus of capacity and high stock levels. Several companies were forced to introduce short-time working and redundancies.

Credit control restrictions were eased at the end of 1975 and the rate of VAT halved in last spring's Budget. Nevertheless, the National Economic Development Office working party on this sector of industry felt it necessary to point out to the Treasury that the success of its programme for recovery in the industry rests on the industry's confidence and permanent degree of confidence within it. Consequently it has

suggested a series of guidelines for using indirect taxation and credit control to help achieve an orderly and stable home market.

Sympathetic expressions of understanding have flowed back to the working party from the Chancellor's office and now that domestic electrical appliances is one of the five sectors singled out for priority treatment it would be seen as a breach of faith if the industry were to be dealt any further body-blow at Budget time.

Since its establishment last spring the sector working party has made significant progress in identifying and correcting short-term problems. Demand has been improving and what capacity is still underutilized, steps have been taken to remove potential supply bottlenecks which would have occurred if sustained high demand were created.

The industry has put pressure on the British Steel Corporation to improve its delivery and quality. It recently cut some prices affecting the industry and some delivery problems have been ironed out. Quality, however, still leaves much to be desired.

Other sector working parties and the industrial strategy coordinating bodies have been told of problems with plastic mouldings, electric motors, toughened glass, aluminium casings and copper and the suppliers are endeavouring to resolve the difficulties.

As component supply difficulties ease they will not only make the British industry more competitive but also reduce dependence on imports, both of components and finished products. The Italians have almost been eradicated from the British market for 4 cu ft and 5 cu ft refrigerators, and dependence on imported components such as compressors for refrigerators and freezers is being reduced. Specific attention is being given to increasing home supply of timer controls for cookers.

The Government has also helped the industry to sort out some of its exporting problems. The EEC "low-voltage directive" which came into force in 1973 has been shown to be less of an obstacle to European

sales than at first thought. The real problem lay within the industry. It had traded almost exclusively in the Commonwealth and did not know the European ropes. Experience and smoothing the way proved to be the solution.

Claims of unfair competition in the United Kingdom from dumped Italian washing machines have been pressed in the EEC Commission, but at present are stalled while further evidence is gathered.

The sector working party is now turning its attention to a more medium-term strategy based on a four point plan. It wants to see the amount of capital per worker employed increased and such is the resurgence of confidence within the sector that several investment projects have been announced or revived. However, for instance, has at last approved the expansion of its home laundry plant at Merthyr Tydfil which will create 2,000 jobs by early 1979. Hopton is contemplating large investment in home supply of timer controls for cookers.

The Government has also helped the industry to sort out some of its exporting problems. The EEC "low-voltage directive" which came into force in 1973 has been shown to be less of an obstacle to European

sales than at first thought. The real problem lay within the industry. It had traded almost exclusively in the Commonwealth and did not know the European ropes. Experience and smoothing the way proved to be the solution.

Claims of unfair competition in the United Kingdom from dumped Italian washing machines have been pressed in the EEC Commission, but at present are stalled while further evidence is gathered.

The sector working party is now turning its attention to a more medium-term strategy based on a four point plan. It wants to see the amount of capital per worker employed increased and such is the resurgence of confidence within the sector that several investment projects have been announced or revived. However, for instance, has at last approved the expansion of its home laundry plant at Merthyr Tydfil which will create 2,000 jobs by early 1979. Hopton is contemplating large investment in home supply of timer controls for cookers.

The Government has also helped the industry to sort out some of its exporting problems. The EEC "low-voltage directive" which came into force in 1973 has been shown to be less of an obstacle to European

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Kenneth Owen, Technology Correspondent

Making room on the office desk for the microcomputer

A new idea in computer programming, announced yesterday by a London software house, is doubly significant. It is an advance in technology in its own right; and it gives a pointer to the way in which the National Enterprise Board's new "Innac" scheme will work to strengthen the computer industry's overseas marketing.

The software house is Computer Analysis & Programmes, in which the NEB is negotiating a 30 per cent stake. The new idea is a method of programming the microprocessors and microcomputers that will be the building blocks of tomorrow's data processing (and of many other things).

In particular, it offers the prospect of applying the benefits of microprocessor hardware to the great resources of software. Microcomputers with low cost—to the needs of business data processing.

This has not happened up to now because of the difficulty and expense of programming these devices for business use; potentially, the impact of microprocessors in business could bring "distributed" processing down literally to the individual level.

Benefits of mass production

The microprocessor is a microcircuit which can be programmed to handle various processing jobs. Thus the basic circuit (and, indeed, the basic microcomputer, which consists of a microprocessor and memory and other elements mounted on a circuit board) can be mass-produced and then tailored to different uses by programming.

But whereas the microcircuit may cost only a few pounds, the bespoke programming can cost thousands.

In conventional computing, as it has developed over the years, the user has a software choice. He can take advantage of the large libraries of programs offered by the computer manufacturers or he can write his own programs.

By contrast, the semiconductor companies which make the microprocessors do not have large libraries of programs, nor to handle business applications, at least.

The essence of the CAP solution is to take an existing microcomputer which has a substantial software library and to use it to write and to test the programs needed for the microprocessor.

Two inventions were needed for this: a "cross-translation" technique, devised by Desmond Hart, CAP's chief software designer, which enables the microcomputer software to generate microcomputer pro-



Mr Alex d'Agapeyeff, chairman of Computer Analysis & Programmes: Microcomputers "capable of automating the work of a single clerk, or providing a local data-base for a single executive".

grams automatically; and a new "micro" version of the widely used Cobol computer language.

The resulting system can produce programs which can be used on a wide range of different types, a key advantage in view of the rapid rate of introduction of new microprocessor models.

CAP next went on to identify the most promising type of application for microcomputers in business. According to Alex d'Agapeyeff, CAP's chairman, this is likely to be a single terminal design, costing perhaps half as much as a small microcomputer, but this is the important implication for the future, "capable of automating the work of a single clerk, or providing a local data-base for a single executive".

Individual microcomputers are clearly not going to replace existing large computer systems in business—not overnight, not next year, possibly not at all. But they will give a new flexibility to an organization's data processing, and the market potential is high for systems which enable the power of the microcomputer to be harnessed effectively.

The new development is seen by CAP as a natural choice for international marketing under the Innac arrangements announced last week by the National Enterprise Board. If the proposed acquisition by the NEB of a 30 per cent stake in CAP is approved by the shareholders (virtually all of whom are company staff), CAP is likely to become the first software-house participant in Innac Data Systems.

Innac's detailed plans have yet to be decided, but the broad initial aim of the NEB subsidiary will be to market a selection of hardware and soft-

ware products and services on behalf of its participant-companies.

The particular package of products to be marketed in particular countries will be decided by the Innac board, on which the NEB and the member-companies will be represented.

Later, Innac intends to support the development of new products as well as their marketing.

This new type of NEB/industry involvement (though depending on an "old type" NEB financial stake in the companies concerned) is intended to strengthen the United Kingdom presence in overseas computer-related markets. It is an alternative to mergers as a way of gaining benefits of scale and cost-cutting, the great resources of the main computer-services companies in the United States and on the continent of Europe.

In terms of company size, for instance, seven of the top 10 computer services companies in Europe are French; none is British.

Though Innac's "products and services" will include both hardware and software, the NEB is paying particular attention to the software companies at present. John Pearce, deputy director of the computers and electronics division of the National Enterprise Board (and a former head of the Hookays systems consultancy) this week continued his discussions with leading software houses on Innac participation.

The National Enterprise Board would like to see about six software/services companies and about 10 non-mainframe hardware firms in the Innac group.

In looking at the computer industry generally the NEB will be concerned with the microcomputer sector, but its approach is unlikely to be through Innac (or through mergers, on present thinking).

ICL, Britain's largest computer company, already is involved with the NEB through the board's 24.4 per cent holding in the company. In principle it would not be excluded from Innac, but (initially, at least) ICL membership is probably regarded as inappropriate.

Of even greater interest is the position of Datsik, ICL's software and services subsidiary. Datsik's NEB did not consult Datsik in its initial round of talks with the software industry, but the company is now keen to explore the possibility of Innac membership with the board.

Greek merchant fleet gambles on expansion

The Greeks, who today own more shipping tonnage than any other nationality in the world, are defying the odds and enlarging their fleets, despite the persisting slump in freight rates, on the gamble that better days lie ahead.

The Greek-owned merchant fleet now amounts to more than 4,600 ships of 51 million tons gross, a 160 per cent increase in a decade.

Of this fleet, 3,300 ships of some 30 million tons are on the Greek registry. This places Greece fifth in world tonnage, after Liberia, Japan, the United Kingdom and Norway.

In fact, Liberia's merchant navy includes 587 Greek-owned vessels of nearly 19 million tons gross. The rest of the Greek-owned fleet operates under other flags of convenience such as Cyprus (571 ships of 2.3 million tons) and Panama.

The Greek shipowners, undeterred by world economic recession and rising oil prices, are adding to their fleet at an unprecedented rate, taking, no doubt, advantage of the sharp decline in prices in shipyards as well as for second-hand ships.

In 1976 they took delivery of 132 new ships of 8.2 million tons deadweight. The breakdown of this order shows that they were quick to adjust to changing conditions. Only 38 of the new vessels were tankers. The rest consisted of handysize bulk carriers and general cargo ships which fare better on the freight market.

Orders placed in 1976 reflected this trend even more. There were no orders for tankers. All the 211 ships of 4.7 million tons deadweight now on order at an estimated cost of \$1,500m (£874m) were bulk carriers and freighters. About nine tenths of all orders went, significantly, to Japanese yards which kept their prices 25-30 per cent below Europe's.

The Greeks also went on a shopping spree for second-hand ships in 1976. This netted them 336 ships of 5.6 million tons gross, adding mostly bulk carriers and freighters.

This big expansion is causing some apprehension among the old-timers. Mr Anthony Chandris, president of the Greek Shipowners' Union, voiced scepticism about the wisdom of this policy. He forecast a gloomy 1977, although one hopeful sign is that idle Greek-owned tonnage dropped to some eight million tons deadweight in 1976, the economic situation of about three million tons deadweight of tankers from lay-up.

Mr Chandris and other leaders of Greek shipping, however, base their arguments not only on international uncertainties but also on increasing discrimination in favour of national carriers or the flags of developing nations.

This is bound to hurt Greek shipping which has relied on the freedom of maritime transport as well as on the low cost of operation to beat competition. Now even this advantage is threatened because of the growing scarcity of competent Greek crews and the fact that 49 of the lost ships were 15 years or older. Loss of life among crew members rose to 10.

That this misfortune is directly related to the age of the ships was evident from the fact that 49 of the lost ships were 15 years or older. Loss of life among crew members rose to 10.

Today only 44 per cent of the total tonnage of the Greek fleet is 10 years old or less, compared with more than 80 per cent for Japan or Norway. Sixteen per cent is over 20 years of age.

This state of affairs threatens to prejudice the insurance position of Greek shipping, but, even worse, the involvement of Greek ships in recent pollution accidents in America, might induce the authorities in the western hemisphere to deny them port access if they are above a certain age.

The Greek Ministry of Shipping is so concerned about the slow rate of renewal of the fleet, which is mainly due to the numerous purchases of old second-hand vessels, that it is considering a proposal to cut back the upper age of ships on the Greek registry from 30 to 25 years, and to lower from 25 to 20 the maximum age of Greek-owned ships entitled to employ Greek union crews.

Shipping makes a major contribution to the Greek economy. The balance of payments profited by some \$875m from shipping earnings, including some \$40m in shipowners' taxes and about \$54m in voluntary contributions in support of the Greek armed forces.

More than 120,000 families of Greek seamen live off this branch of the economy and existing vacancies give work to many more if Greece were not among the few privileged countries free from an unemployment problem.

As things stand today, however, the Greeks keep their fingers crossed unless a major shipping crisis spells doom, and hope that the bunch of better days are round the corner will prove true.

Mario Modiano

Independent Newspapers Limited

Extracts from Report of the Chairman Mr. R. T. Murphy in the Independent Newspapers Ltd. Annual Report for year ending December 31, 1976.

"As indicated in the interim statement to shareholders in August 1976 the year has witnessed a substantial degree of profit recovery from the depressed levels of 1974 and 1975. Profits before tax for 1976 amounted to £1,363,000. This represents an improvement of some 30 per cent over the previous peak year of 1973. Your Board is proposing a final dividend of 18 per cent, which makes a total of 25 per cent for the year compared with 18 per cent last year. The National Readership survey for 1976 published recently, emphasises the predominant position of the Company's publications in Ireland. It is estimated that more than four fifths of all adults in Ireland read one or more of the group's publications each week."

Financial Highlights

	1976	1975
Group Turnover	£2,000	£2,000
Profit before Tax	£1,363	£446
Profit after Tax	£697	£375
Earnings per Share	13.15p	7.08p
Dividend per Share	4.07p	2.93p

Copies of the Director's Report and Statement of Accounts for 1976 from: John Mitchell, Secretary, Independent House, Dublin 1.

Business Diary: Geneen, Hamilton and ITT • Accounting for taste

Geneen, who is British and who some in the City view as "the local boy who made good" is finally going to use some of his power at International Telephone Telegraph Corporation, company may therefore be seen as entering a phase after years of turbulence from the United States business establishment. Geneen will retire as the company's chief executive officer nearly 20 years at the end of the year, but will retain the my's chairmanship which gives him power over its firm planning.



Harold Geneen, will be succeeded as chief executive by Lyman Hamilton, 17 years younger at 50, who is described by colleagues as being considerably



... and Lyman Hamilton, and as having a sense of humour (attributed to normally applied to Geneen) and who greatly enjoys ice hockey (Geneen has no time for sports).

Geneen took a floundering ITT with sales of \$700m and profits of \$27m in 1969 to a position last year where its profits were \$489m and its sales in excess of \$1,700m. Working for ITT brought rich rewards for those who were willing to devote themselves totally to the company—and oblivion for those who did not.

In Brussels, the site of ITT's European head office, the power Geneen wielded resulted, for example, in special tax benefits for foreign residents ("the ITT law" it was once called) and permission to plant a monstrous office block in a beautiful suburb.

The company's successful former President Nixon was active in pre-Fincher Chile. Geneen seems to have revelled in controversy; it will be interesting to see if Hamilton can impose his own style. Will he, for example, be invited to join the United States Business Council, which rebuffed Geneen's efforts to join?

Off the panel

There was obviously some unfinished business when two months ago, it was announced that Bill Samuel's David MacDonald was to succeed Martin Harris as director-general of the City's Panel on Takeovers and Mergers. Harris, who had been a senior partner with accountants Price Waterhouse before joining the panel, had said: "I don't know yet quite what I will be doing when my term ends."

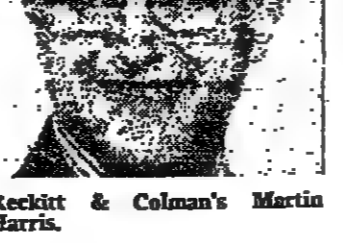
Well, now we know. When he leaves at the end of next month he will be going to Reckitt and Colman, where two months later he will be the executive director for finance and planning.

But the tying-up of this loose end merely unravels another. It now emerges that a month after Harris moves in, Reckitt and Colman chairman Arthur

Mason is to retire, although the board has yet to name a successor. The deputy chairman and chief executive of the food, dyestuffs and pharmaceuticals group is James Clemonson.

If it is surprising that Harris is not to return to Price Waterhouse, then the fact that Reckitt and Colman job is the nearest alternative.

Harris was responsible for the Reckitt and Colman audit in his PW days, and 20 years earlier he had been the assistant to the partner who had to be involved in the bringing together of the Reckitt and Colman interests.



Reckitt & Colman's Martin Harris.

It was during Harris's time at the panel that the body approved Reckitt and Colman's eventually successful £7m bid for the Winsor and Newton artists' materials interests.

He will take over from Sir Michael Colman, director of planning and control. Sir Michael is to assume control of the group's British business in the place of John West, who (and here's yet another loose end) is to take up a new overseas appointment details of which will be announced as soon as possible.

Harris will be among political as well as business friends in his new job. The panel is a plank of the City's self-regulation policy.

Taxing language

Personal taxation accountants might care to ponder remarks about the Inland Revenue made by Sir Idwal Pugh today in his first report as "Ombudsman".

The new Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration could put a number of the brethren out of business were the taxmen and women to heed what he

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Hands in
son as
ck fends
AE bid

Jeffrey Webb
ham, Feb 10
k just eight minutes to
Serck's annual meet-
clear the way for the
siness of the day. This
demonstration of
for the board's attempt
e off a \$36m bid by
ed Engineering.
50 shareholders and em-
attending the Midland
ed with each other to
the microphone and
their loyalty to Serck.
pulled all the emotional
including an extract
battlefield message to
from Field Marshal
outgoing.
stewards reported that
e of workers had voted
cent to state-off AE's
y talked of Serck's ex-
labour relations record,
ages, and sympathetic
They contrasted
e of affairs with reports
Associated Engineering
ries were at present
g with strike problems,
he traditional weapons
ding-off a bid were not
d. A shareholder sug-
that the balance sheet
ted the group's real-
y a substantial amount.
ted out that properties
t been revalued since
Robin Martin, chairman,
repaired statement, dis-
tated when he said AE
n for the first and only
e days ago, he was told
ck's success was the
traction" and that AE
it to broaden its base.
that when a chairman
of broadening his base
lly meant that he was
happy about his exist-
s but liked the look
AE's suggestion that
d the cash necessary to
Serck's potential in such
markets as oil, gas and
chemicals, Serck was
investing heavily in these
nd could finance them
s. Indeed, the money
was now spending was
he tip of the iceberg in
ing expansion plans it
ce for itself."

Decline in metal
prices : coffee
comes off highs

Prices declined on the London
Metal Exchange yesterday, ex-
cept for lead. In copper, selling
depressed the market in the ring
as hedging touched off some stop-
loss operations. At the afternoon
close wire bars were £11.50 lower
for cash and three months was
also £11.50 down.
In silver, values drifted lower
under light selling. Sentiment was
undermined by New York's de-
cline and the trend in base metals.
There were losses of 1p to 2.10p
in the afternoon.
Despite a \$M6 advance in the
Penny price, tin values fell back
in a nervous market with outside
demand slack and recent heavy
buying absent. At the afternoon
close standard cash was £42.50
down on the day and three months
had fallen £40.
Zinc gave ground under sporadic
liquidation and hedge selling
in a market lacking worthwhile
physical demand. At the afternoon
close standard cash was £42.50
down on the day and three months
had fallen £28.25.
Coffee prices fell back from
yesterday's highs due to hedge
selling and liquidation. At the
close March had declined by £17.50
and May was £23 lower. In cocoa
prices fell back. At the close
March was £3 down on the day
and May had fallen £59.50.
COPPER—Afternoon—Cash wire bars,
£11.50 down on day's high of
£12.50. Three months, £11.50
down on day's high of £12.50.
SILVER—Afternoon—Cash wire bars,
£1.10 down on day's high of
£1.20. Three months, £1.10
down on day's high of £1.20.
TIN—Afternoon—Cash wire bars,
£42.50 down on day's high of
£45.00. Three months, £40.00
down on day's high of £45.00.
ZINC—Afternoon—Cash wire bars,
£42.50 down on day's high of
£45.00. Three months, £40.00
down on day's high of £45.00.
COFFEE—Afternoon—Cash wire bars,
£17.50 down on day's high of
£20.00. Three months, £23.00
down on day's high of £25.00.
COCOA—Afternoon—Cash wire bars,
£59.50 down on day's high of
£65.00. Three months, £55.00
down on day's high of £60.00.

Commodities

PLATINUM was at \$24.10 (\$161.50)
RUBBER was at \$1.00 (\$1.00)
SUGAR was at \$1.00 (\$1.00)
WHEAT was at \$1.00 (\$1.00)
CORN was at \$1.00 (\$1.00)
SOYBEANS was at \$1.00 (\$1.00)
CATTLE was at \$1.00 (\$1.00)
PORK was at \$1.00 (\$1.00)
LARD was at \$1.00 (\$1.00)
TALLOW was at \$1.00 (\$1.00)
WHEAT was at \$1.00 (\$1.00)
CORN was at \$1.00 (\$1.00)
SOYBEANS was at \$1.00 (\$1.00)
CATTLE was at \$1.00 (\$1.00)
PORK was at \$1.00 (\$1.00)
LARD was at \$1.00 (\$1.00)
TALLOW was at \$1.00 (\$1.00)

Foreign
Exchange

The dollar generally rallied in
Europe, after crashing early losses
against the mark and yen. Sterling
not further outright selling in for-
ward markets.
Comments by Bundesbank vice-
president Herr Ottmar Emminger,
that there was no room in the
floating currency system for arti-
ficial appreciation of the mark
through intervention helped to
reverse the speculative forces
building up this week to the Ger-
man unit and yen, dealers said.
United States economist Mr.
Lawrence H. White, recent remarks
that Germany and Japan could
significantly aid other nations'
economies allowing their cur-
rencies to rise by 10 per cent had
sparked a speculative move into
the two currencies, dealers said.
The mark retreated to a closing
2.40/80 from a day's high of
2.40/100. The yen closed at
285.50/55 in dollar terms in Lon-
don against a high of 285.00/00
in the morning.
Sterling lost 15 points to \$1.750
from \$1.775 overnight. Its "effec-
tive" devaluation rate was un-
changed at 42.8 per cent.
Gold closed in London at
\$355.525, down \$1 on the day.

Discount market

Discount houses again needed a
great deal of help from the Bank
of England yesterday to bridge
the shortage of funds in the
market, but this assistance was
clearly substantial than was
necessary on Wednesday. The
Bank lent an extremely large sum
overnight to seven or eight houses
at 10.8 (12 per cent) and bought
a moderate amount of Treasury
bills, a small amount of local
authority bills and a small amount
of "eligible" bank bills. The
bills, still within the moderate
designations in total, were all pur-
chased directly from houses.
After 12.12 per cent initially,
the rate for day-to-day money
eased slightly to around 12 per
cent at which level houses were
able to make quite good progress
in obtaining secured loans during
the morning. The going was a
little tougher after lunch and the
close was on the tight side with
banks and houses both offering
the range of 11.12 to 12 per cent.
The help from the Bank appeared to
be a trifle unneeded.
Treasury bill dealers reported
an active market.

Wall Street

New York, Feb 10.—Wall Street
prices closed higher today with a
number of blue chip issues show-
ing gains.
The Dow Jones industrial aver-
age gained 4.08 points to 937.92.
Advancing issues narrowly out-
numbered declining ones by about
75 to 70. Volume totalled
22,340,000 shares, down from
23,640,000 shares yesterday.
Brokers said buying in basic
industrial issues was encouraged
by the statement by Mr. James
Schlesinger, presidential energy
adviser, that the immediate
American natural gas crisis was
over.—AP-Dow Jones.

Coffee 3c limit up

Future coffee prices rose 3c limit up
yesterday, after a day of
volatility. The March contract
closed at 35.50, up from 32.50.
The May contract closed at 36.50,
up from 33.50. The July contract
closed at 37.50, up from 34.50.
The September contract closed at
38.50, up from 35.50. The Decem-
ber contract closed at 39.50, up
from 36.50. The March contract
closed at 40.50, up from 37.50.
The May contract closed at 41.50,
up from 38.50. The July contract
closed at 42.50, up from 39.50.
The September contract closed at
43.50, up from 40.50. The Decem-
ber contract closed at 44.50, up
from 41.50. The March contract
closed at 45.50, up from 42.50.
The May contract closed at 46.50,
up from 43.50. The July contract
closed at 47.50, up from 44.50.
The September contract closed at
48.50, up from 45.50. The Decem-
ber contract closed at 49.50, up
from 46.50. The March contract
closed at 50.50, up from 47.50.
The May contract closed at 51.50,
up from 48.50. The July contract
closed at 52.50, up from 49.50.
The September contract closed at
53.50, up from 50.50. The Decem-
ber contract closed at 54.50, up
from 51.50. The March contract
closed at 55.50, up from 52.50.
The May contract closed at 56.50,
up from 53.50. The July contract
closed at 57.50, up from 54.50.
The September contract closed at
58.50, up from 55.50. The Decem-
ber contract closed at 59.50, up
from 56.50. The March contract
closed at 60.50, up from 57.50.
The May contract closed at 61.50,
up from 58.50. The July contract
closed at 62.50, up from 59.50.
The September contract closed at
63.50, up from 60.50. The Decem-
ber contract closed at 64.50, up
from 61.50. The March contract
closed at 65.50, up from 62.50.
The May contract closed at 66.50,
up from 63.50. The July contract
closed at 67.50, up from 64.50.
The September contract closed at
68.50, up from 65.50. The Decem-
ber contract closed at 69.50, up
from 66.50. The March contract
closed at 70.50, up from 67.50.
The May contract closed at 71.50,
up from 68.50. The July contract
closed at 72.50, up from 69.50.
The September contract closed at
73.50, up from 70.50. The Decem-
ber contract closed at 74.50, up
from 71.50. The March contract
closed at 75.50, up from 72.50.
The May contract closed at 76.50,
up from 73.50. The July contract
closed at 77.50, up from 74.50.
The September contract closed at
78.50, up from 75.50. The Decem-
ber contract closed at 79.50, up
from 76.50. The March contract
closed at 80.50, up from 77.50.
The May contract closed at 81.50,
up from 78.50. The July contract
closed at 82.50, up from 79.50.
The September contract closed at
83.50, up from 80.50. The Decem-
ber contract closed at 84.50, up
from 81.50. The March contract
closed at 85.50, up from 82.50.
The May contract closed at 86.50,
up from 83.50. The July contract
closed at 87.50, up from 84.50.
The September contract closed at
88.50, up from 85.50. The Decem-
ber contract closed at 89.50, up
from 86.50. The March contract
closed at 90.50, up from 87.50.
The May contract closed at 91.50,
up from 88.50. The July contract
closed at 92.50, up from 89.50.
The September contract closed at
93.50, up from 90.50. The Decem-
ber contract closed at 94.50, up
from 91.50. The March contract
closed at 95.50, up from 92.50.
The May contract closed at 96.50,
up from 93.50. The July contract
closed at 97.50, up from 94.50.
The September contract closed at
98.50, up from 95.50. The Decem-
ber contract closed at 99.50, up
from 96.50. The March contract
closed at 100.50, up from 97.50.
The May contract closed at 101.50,
up from 98.50. The July contract
closed at 102.50, up from 99.50.
The September contract closed at
103.50, up from 100.50. The Decem-
ber contract closed at 104.50, up
from 101.50. The March contract
closed at 105.50, up from 102.50.
The May contract closed at 106.50,
up from 103.50. The July contract
closed at 107.50, up from 104.50.
The September contract closed at
108.50, up from 105.50. The Decem-
ber contract closed at 109.50, up
from 106.50. The March contract
closed at 110.50, up from 107.50.
The May contract closed at 111.50,
up from 108.50. The July contract
closed at 112.50, up from 109.50.
The September contract closed at
113.50, up from 110.50. The Decem-
ber contract closed at 114.50, up
from 111.50. The March contract
closed at 115.50, up from 112.50.
The May contract closed at 116.50,
up from 113.50. The July contract
closed at 117.50, up from 114.50.
The September contract closed at
118.50, up from 115.50. The Decem-
ber contract closed at 119.50, up
from 116.50. The March contract
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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 31. Dealings End, Feb 11. \$ Contango Day, Feb 14. Settlement Day, Feb 22
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

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